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Cecil Beaton, page 14

THE TIMES

Syrian demand for UN deal on PLO angers Israelis

Syria has demanded a special Security Council meeting in January attended by the Palestine Liberation Organization as part of the price for agreeing to a continuation of the United Nations force on the Golan Heights. Israel reacted firmly yesterday saying that it would consider itself freed from existing obligations if potential deals are made to win Syria's agreement.

Threat to renewal of Golan Heights force

From Peter Stafford
New York, Nov 28
Syria let it be known today that it was prepared to prolong the mandate of the United Nations force on the Golan Heights for six months, but only on certain conditions. Its main demand was that the Security Council should agree to hold a meeting on the Middle East in January with the participation of the Palestine Liberation Organization.
This demand was made known as the Security Council began informal talks on renewing the mandate, which expires on Sunday night. Dr. Kurt Waldheim, the Secretary-General, gave a report on his recent trip to the area, in the course of which he saw the Syrian and Israeli leaders.
Neither Syria nor Israel is a member of the council, but the mandate of the Golan Heights force cannot be renewed without the approval of both. It is generally felt that, if the mandate was not renewed, it would present an immediate threat to peace in the region.
The Syrian call for a council meeting with PLO participation as opposed by the Americans, at least in the way it was presented. The question was whether some sort of compromise could be worked out, which would meet the Syrian desire for the PLO to be involved in the Palestinian issue and which would be acceptable to the Americans.
Joseph Brinkman writes from Jerusalem: Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, Prime Minister, served notice today that Israel will consider itself freed from obligations arising from the Security Council's resolutions if their sanctions are changed in an attempt to get Syria to extend a mandate of the Golan peace-keeping force.
The Prime Minister said that he would agree to another round of the Geneva talks with a participation of the original members, but only after Syria ceases an extension of the mandate of the United Nations peace-keeping force. He said the mandate for the force was an integral part of the disengagement agreement signed last year.
Speaking at a press luncheon

Terrorists forfeit right to life—Mrs Thatcher

By Hugh Noyes
Parliamentary Correspondent
Westminster
In a moving tribute to Mr. Ross McWhirter yesterday in the Commons, Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, set out firmly her belief that the death penalty should be restored for terrorist murders.
The Tory leader, accepting that that must be a personal decision for every MP, told the House: "I personally believe that those who commit these terrible crimes against humanity have forfeited their right to live. Many would take the view that those committing such a crime should at least have their right to live at liberty for the rest of their lives."
From both sides of the House, from Mr McWhirter's political friends and opponents alike, there was a deep sense of outrage at Thursday night's murder. The Home Secretary, condemning "this utterly barbaric crime," told MPs he was not yet able to give further information, but he added later that there was a possibility that that was the beginning of a new form of attack which had not so far been seen in Britain.
Replying to Mr Thorpe, the Liberal leader, who wondered whether there should be a re-assessment of members of the public who might be at risk without extra protection, the Home Secretary said he had that in mind but it would not be right to announce all operational plans the police might be considering.
To MPs who urged him to reconsider the death penalty for terrorism, Mr Jenkins gave an assurance that his views were based entirely on his judgment of what could best prevent violence.
"It is not a difference between guts and softness," the Home Secretary said, "I have no respect for softness in present circumstances and no sympathy with those who commit these terrible crimes."
If they were shot in the act I would have no sympathy of any sort. It is entirely a question of what, on the basis of the best judgment we can make, is most likely to reduce violence in the future."
He assured MPs that his mind was not closed to further measures. Those could be discussed during the remaining stages of the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill, which was given its second reading on Wednesday. It was not a question of his personal conscience and it would be wrong for him to place his conscience before measures that might help to conquer such horror.
He urged MPs that while there could be honest differences on the matter, they should not be allowed to endanger their nerve, judgment and calmness and the lead which Parli-

City fears pound may sink below \$2 level

By Melvyn Westlake
Economics Staff
Against a background of bleak predictions for the British economy and a fresh reduction in the Bank of England's minimum lending rate, the pound sank to its lowest level ever. With only token resistance by the Bank of England, it fell by almost another cent against the dollar to close at \$2.0205.
Few currency dealers now doubt that the sterling exchange rate will fall below \$2.00 within the next few days. At one stage yesterday it went as low as \$2.0130, but later staged a minor recovery.
With the pound in such poor condition there was some surprise that the Treasury permitted a further fall in the MLR, which is the keystone in the nation's interest rate structure.
The reduction of a 1 percentage point—the second such cut in three weeks—brings the MLR down to 11 per cent. However, the authorities did not view this reduction as being responsible for the fresh weakness of the pound, which has been slipping steadily all week.
But the drop in MLR certainly added to the pound's troubles. Traditionally, rates are raised when sterling is under pressure to make the currency more attractive to foreign bankers. Early in October, when the pound last looked exposed, the MLR was increased by a full one percentage point to 12 per cent.
Officially, yesterday's slide in sterling was being attributed to the strength of the dollar, which has risen sharply on the exchanges since President Ford's decision to help New York City overcome its financial troubles. Because the United States financial markets were shut on Thursday for Thanksgiving Day, the main effect of the President's decision was not felt until yesterday.
In addition, the latest gloomy forecasts from the National



Winston Churchill at the age of seven.

Churchill 'no dunce at school'

By Philip Hoivard
The really great man is the man who makes every man feel great. Sir Winston Churchill had the additional merit of making dunce and all schoolboys who could not get the hang of their quadratic equations feel great also; he assiduously cultivated the impression that he was had at his lessons.
The headmaster of his old preparatory school, Stoke Newington, in Sussex, yesterday exposed that as myth. Mr John Bartlett, quoted in old school reports, class lists, and letters to prove that, on the contrary, young Winston was regularly top of the form and a prize winner while he was at the school from 1884 to 1889.
The locus classicus for the picture of young Winston as a dunce is his description of his Latin prose entrance paper to Harrow:
"I wrote my name at the top of the page. I wrote down the number of the question. I put a bracket round it thus (1). But then after I could not think of anything connected with it that was either relevant or true. It was from these slender indications of scholarship that Mr Eldon drew the conclusion that I was worthy to pass into Harrow. It is very much to his credit."
Mr Bartlett produced records from Winston's headmistress at Stoke Newington to show what was wrong with his Latin prose: "All that happened was that he had a very bad attack of exam nerves."
The headmaster in his role of child psychologist argued that young Winston pretended to be bored with or less than to impress his unsympathetic father when he was successful at anything.
"I gave Sir Winston some amusement to pretend in his later life that he had always been bottom of his class, but it was certainly not true. Our contemporary records show that he worked hard, and in his last year was top in every subject except geography, in which he came second."
The occasion for this report on the school's most famous old boy was the presentation of 34 volumes of his collected works by the Library of Imperial History, and the present generation of schoolboys showed considerable enthusiasm at the news that the day would thereafter be called Churchill Day, and would be commemorated by a half holiday.

Mr Wilson steps into the doctors' dispute

By John Roper
Medical Reporter
Mr Wilson is to meet Sir Rodney Smith, president of the Royal College of Surgeons and spokesman for the conference representing all royal colleges and faculties of medicine, on Wednesday. That is the earliest date on which the Prime Minister can see Sir Rodney in reply to his request for an urgent meeting to discuss the grave concern felt by the royal colleges about the effects of the doctors' dispute.
At the junior doctors' industrial action entered its second day yesterday, more casualty units, wards and hospitals began to run down supplies or close. The situation on Monday will be worse still even if, as seems likely, a significant number of consultants ignore the official call to begin limiting their work to emergencies and the treatment of patients already in hospital in protest against the Government's plans for the future of private practice.
An example of the effect of the junior's action is the Cambridge area, where the casualty department at Huntingdon County hospital shut last night and two hospitals at Wisbech were being run down to capacity. The King's College Hospital, which is the casualty department at Addenbrooke's hospital, Cambridge, a main centre serving a wide area, would also close was in the balance last night.
Mr Wilson will, shortly receive a petition signed by nearly 200 NHS patients in Charing Cross hospital, London, expressing sympathy for junior hospital doctors. The petition, organized spontaneously by a housewife who is a patient in the hospital, says that patients had noticed the "unrelenting dedication and the skill" of the hospital doctors, and sincerely hoped that a just solution of the dispute would soon be forthcoming.
The British Medical Association advised all hospital doctors to give a normal service to all patients already in hospital, but to accept only those who were injured or in need of urgent treatment.
Continued on page 2, col 5



Mr Albert Benson, aged 78, believed to be the Lake District's oldest huntsman, on one of his outings with the Windermere Harriers.

Mr Faulds places value on his voice, Mr Stonehouse on his writing

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff
Who and the stronghold of Counter Information Services.
Mr Wilson, under "land and property" discloses the public knowledge that he owns houses but that no income is received; Mr Heath, under "trades and professions" states he has benefited financially from "writing press articles, lecturing, making television and radio broadcasts" under the same heading.
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MPs reveal their interests to public scrutiny

of the Companies' Register, newspaper, libraries, Who and the stronghold of Counter Information Services.
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Paris waits for British retreat on oil

Britain does not back down from its stand for a seat of its own at the coming oil conference, then the conference ought not take place, it is being said by the French capital. By insisting on going alone, Britain is pumping the suspicion that it wants the OPEC to be an oil free trade area and an agricultural union market.

Chrysler decision left to Cabinet

Unless the Cabinet decides to mount a temporary rescue operation under the Industry Act, a phased run-down of Chrysler UK, starting in the new year, will be announced next week. Mr John Riccardo, the Chrysler chairman, returned to the United States yesterday after making proposals to the British Government on state assistance for the United Kingdom car-making operation. It is thought these are unacceptable to the Government.

Japanese top British car imports table

Japanese manufacturers exported 106,816 cars to Britain in the first 10 months of the year—34,106 more than in the corresponding period of 1974. Japanese companies have now moved ahead of French manufacturers as the largest car importers into Britain.

One Radio 3 wave band is handed over to Albania

By Kenneth Gosling
Arts Reporter
A successful bid by Albania for a new high-power radio transmitter means that most of Britain, including London and the South-East, will be unable to receive BBC Radio 3 at night on the medium waveband. The Albanian bid was made in the Regional Administration Broadcasting Conference in Geneva, at which all countries except the Americas were represented.
Mr James Redmond, head of engineering at the BBC and one of two dozen United Kingdom delegates at the seven-week conference, which produced an international agreement on frequencies, advises Radio 3 listeners to switch to VHF when the agreement comes into force in 1978.
Albania had only one delegate. He came and made a couple of speeches but he did not hang round to negotiate, Mr Redmond said. But his appearance was effective. One of the frequencies of significance to this country is 647kHz, which provides the Radio 3 medium wave service.
Daytime coverage will not be affected, but Albania's plan for a transmitter would mean a drop in night coverage from 72 per cent to 20 per cent, and that would mean that only listeners in a fairly tight circle round the main Daventry transmitter in Northamptonshire would get Radio 3.
"We are having a hard look at the whole thing," Mr Redmond said, "and we are trying to shuffle our frequencies to get a better mix."
Some compensations did emerge. Britain, while limited to retaining its existing frequencies, against the advice of the BBC, which wanted more, will benefit by an agreement with Poland that will enable Scotland to listen to Radio 2 on 1,500m. BBC Radio London will also get a better signal. In exchange Poland gets a daytime long-range frequency from Britain. But the Independent Broadcasting Authority will experience a slight diminution of coverage on most of its radio stations.
This was the first time frequencies for long and medium-wave broadcasting had been redistributed since the Copenhagen Plan was implemented in 1950.

Opposition to attack Press Bill changes

Because of the unusual circumstances and lack of precedent, strong procedural measures are expected to be raised by Opposition when the Commons considers amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill aiding to safeguards for Press freedom.

Australian 'bunfight'

The Australian election campaign is heating up. The opening speech by Mr Fraser, for the Liberal-Country coalition, apart from promising a business revival, contained abuse of Mr Whitlam, the Labour leader. Mr Whitlam reciprocated. A Labour Party worker said that the electioneering had become "the usual Australian bunfight".

TV decision awaited

The Court of Appeal is expected to give judgment next week in the case in which a London solicitor is claiming that the BBC has no power to revoke his colour television licence.

Soviet view of Angola

Pravda correspondent writing from gora represents the war as the struggle of a new state against two sets of imperialist invaders. Both groups, he writes, are American advisers and Chinese instructors. There is no mention of Asians or Cubans taking part.

General's letters

Love letters written by Sir John French, commander of the British forces in Flanders in 1914-15, to the wife of a British diplomat, show he was dangerously indiscreet in disclosing battle plans.

Peace talks denied

A supposedly secret meeting in Holland between rival Ulster paramilitary groups is not for peace talks, the groups say.

Amphill succession

Conflicting claims of Mr G. D. E. Sell, son of the first wife of the late Lord Amphill, and Mr J. H. T. Russell, of the third wife of the late Lord Amphill, to the barony of Amphill are being judged by a House of Lords committee of privileges.

Drowning inquest

Two girls aged nine who died during a school swimming lesson collided underwater, a coroner was told.

Energy: Announcements on the future of oil and gas exploration in the Celtic Sea will be made next year, Mr Wedgwood Benn said.

Ice-land: A report from a British support ship describes the difficulties of fishing under threats from gunboat interference.

Timor: The Fretilin flag is hoisted over the former Portuguese territory and "independence" is declared.

Footballers' charter

By County signed Leighton James, of Ley, for £300,000 yesterday—the day a revolutionary transfer system was posed by the Professional Footballers' Association. The formula would give players freedom of contract, as well as compensation for clubs.

Cricket: Australia well placed in first Test against West Indies; Rugby Union: Wallabies match prospects; Racing: Sandown Park report and preview.

Business News, pages 19-23

Stockmarket: Equities and gilts fell back. The FT index shed three points to 357.3. Personal investment and finance: Patricia Tisdall on the Christmas food hamper trade; Vera Di Palma on the effects of transfer tax on gifts; Ronald Irving on the legal hazards of moving house; Eric Bruner on preparing for occupational pension schemes; John Drummond on insurance and handbag snatching.

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HOME NEWS

£11,000 is given to Ross McWhirter Freedom Foundation

By Penny Symon

A Ross McWhirter Freedom Foundation is to be established by the Institute for Economic Affairs, with Mrs Thatcher, Leader of the Opposition, as one of its sponsors, the institute announced last night. Mr Ross McWhirter, aged 50, was murdered at his home on Thursday.

Mr Ralph Harris, its director, said that with the agreement of Mr McWhirter's brother Norris, it was proposed to devise some continuing award that would celebrate the qualities displayed to a high degree by Mr McWhirter.

"The target is to raise £100,000, of which we had received £11,000 by midday today," Mr Harris said. "Other sponsors include: Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, Lord Boyd of Merton, Rear-Admiral Basil Place, and Odette Hallows, the war heroine."

On Tuesday a new organisation, The National Association for Freedom, is to be launched in London, and Mr Norris McWhirter is due to speak at its inaugural meeting.

The association is described as a formidable national body to fight for the rights and liberties of all; it intends to represent groups, associations, federations, trades and professions.

Lord De Lisle, its chairman, said yesterday that Mr McWhirter's murder had illustrated in its most tragic form the ever-growing threats to freedom and civilisation from extremism.

"Ross McWhirter was a brave and brilliant man who was devoted to freedom and was one of those all too rare men who are ready to fight for their beliefs," he said.

The first two points in the association's freedom charter, he said, proclaimed the right

to be defended against the country's enemies, and the right to live under the Queen's peace.

Mr McWhirter was chairman of Current Affairs Press, which was set up last March. Its first campaign was to establish an independent newspaper printing works capable of producing a news sheet if strikes or lockouts should bring the national press to a stop.

Clive Borrell writes: Detectives last night were guarding Mrs McWhirter at a secret address in London as fears grew for her safety. "She has been able to give us a clear description of the two men who shot her husband and as a result she is a vital witness," a senior detective at Enfield, north London, said last night. "For her own safety she must be protected. The McWhirter home is in Enfield."

The murder investigation is being led by Commander Roy Hargreaves, head of Scotland Yard's bomb squad, which has overall control of anti-terrorist activities.

Police were reluctant to give details of the shooting of Mr McWhirter.

It is clear, however, that two gunmen laid an ambush for Mrs McWhirter as she drove home. Police believe that they hid in the shrubbery beside the detached house in Village Road, and approached Mrs McWhirter as she entered the drive.

Her husband was evidently expecting her, because he opened the front door when he heard her car's engine on the road. At that moment the two gunmen rushed to the front door and fired two shots at Mr McWhirter, one hitting him in the head and the other in the body.

The two gunmen, neither of whom wore masks, then took Mrs McWhirter's car and drove off at speed. The car, a blue



Det Chief Supt Nigel Reid (third from left), who is taking part in the hunt for Mr Ross McWhirter's killers, leaving the murder scene yesterday.

Ford Granada, was found abandoned by police a few minutes later in Devonshire Hill Lane, Tottenham.

Mr David Hoy, a business associate of the McWhirter brothers, said yesterday that Mr Ross McWhirter had left his office in Cecil Court, Enfield, for his home which was less than a mile away, at about 5.30 pm on Thursday.

"He did worry about his safety," he added, and "took the usual precautions as recommended by the police and searched the undergrowth of his car each morning before leaving home."

Our Political Correspondent writes: Many Conservative MPs shocked by the murder of Mr Ross McWhirter on Thursday, said last night that they intended to renew pressure on

the Government to reintroduce the death penalty for acts of terrorism which result in death.

The first opportunity to test opinion in the Commons on the use of the death penalty and to ascertain how views are changing under the impact of the IRA campaign of violence might be when the Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Bill comes before the Commons.

Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, found support for a Commons early-day motion saying: "This House... urges HM Government... to introduce immediately capital punishment for terrorist offences resulting in death."

Mr Rhodes Boyson, Conservative MP for Brent, North, and a friend of Mr McWhirter, said:

"The fact that the Metropolitan Police are understaffed by 10,000 men is a disgrace."

"Undoubtedly, Ross McWhirter got under the skin of the IRA because he was, indeed, a superior man for informers. His death has shown that they are frightened of informers."

Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, should offer £500,000 for information leading to the capture of the killers of Mr McWhirter.

Mr Andrew Tyrie, leader of the Ulster Defence Association, and Mr David Payne, one of his chief lieutenants, are taking part in the discussions with Mr John McKague, spokesman for the newly-formed Ulster Army Council, Mr Seamus Loughran, Northern organizer of the Provisional Sinn Féin, and four leaders of the Andersonstown Cooperative.

Attempts during the last few months to arrange meetings between the opposing paramilitary groups have all failed.

Peace 'not discussed' as Ulster rivals meet

From Christopher Walker Belfast

Weeks of negotiations preceded a supposedly secret meeting now taking place in Holland between representatives of Ulster's most powerful Protestant paramilitary groups and republican militants, including the Provisional Sinn Féin.

The subject was originally the workers' cooperative which the Provisionals have run in their West Belfast stronghold of Andersonstown since 1973. A limited company, it embraces a supermarket, a butcher's shop and a number of subcontractors repairing buildings for the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

The "loyalists", conscious of the success of that enterprise and jealous of the employment it provides for former prisoners and detainees, recently cooperated with a small cooperative of their own, but felt they needed more expertise. They asked the Rev William Arlow, a Protestant clergyman and mediator, if he could arrange a meeting with the IRA.

Yesterday Mr Arlow flew to take part in the closing stages of the conference. He said: "There was no chance of them being able to talk properly in Northern Ireland, so I made a few inquiries and was able to offer them some conference facilities in Holland, arranged through the European Conference of Churches."

Mr Andrew Tyrie, leader of the Ulster Defence Association, and Mr David Payne, one of his chief lieutenants, are taking part in the discussions with Mr John McKague, spokesman for the newly-formed Ulster Army Council, Mr Seamus Loughran, Northern organizer of the Provisional Sinn Féin, and four leaders of the Andersonstown Cooperative.

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largely because of fears among the leadership about the reaction of their supporters. This time the plan appears to have succeeded because of an agreement to restrict discussion to the issue of workers' co-operatives.

Nevertheless, there was widespread speculation yesterday that both sides would use the opportunity of the meeting away from the violent pressures of Ulster to raise more fundamental issues. The leaders of the UDA and the Provisional Republican movement have not come face to face since their meeting in Libya in October, 1974.

Mr Arlow, who helped to establish the Provisional IRA's ceasefire, said: "I am particularly hoping that lines of communication will be opened up which can help them to bring the dreadful campaign of sectarian killings to an end."

A UDA spokesman, however, said: "There is no way that we would have been represented if there had been a question of peace talks."

The Ulster Volunteer Force delegation was last night ordered to retire because of publicity and because their brigade staff in Belfast were worried that the talks were overstepping their limits.

Sue Masterson writes from The Hague: The symposium is fully subsidised by the Dutch Ministry of Culture. The organizers are three Dutch and three Irish clergymen and social workers.

Mr Joris Bakker, rector of a civil rights foundation, and one of the 30 delegates were embarrassed by the publicity the meeting has received.

Asked whether the group has discussed anything apart from co-operatives and how to renovate old and damaged housing, Father Andre Lascaris, another of the organizers, said: "They seem to get on fine together. It is not our business to concern ourselves with what they talk about outside the conference room."

Peers will rule on Amphill succession

By Our Political Correspondent

The House of Lords will appoint a committee of 16 peers to consider the conflicting claims of two men who claim to be the rightful inheritors of the Barony of Amphil, in Bedfordshire.

The first petitioner listed in the Lords order paper yesterday is Geoffrey Denis Erskine Russell, commonly called the Baron of Amphil, in Bedfordshire.

Both pray that her Majesty will be graciously pleased to admit and allow his claim to succeed to the title of his father as Baron Amphil of Amphil in the county of Bedford, and will direct a writ of summons to be issued to him for attendance in Parliament as Baron Amphil of Amphil.

The duty of the Lords committee is to advise the Queen who is the rightful heir.

A Staff Reporter writes: The appointment of the committee is the latest stage in a protracted dispute that began with the Russell baby case. In 1921 Mr John Russell, who became Lord Amphil in 1935 and died in 1973, petitioned for divorce on the ground that he was not the father of the child born to his wife, Mrs Christabel Russell, on October 15, 1921.

He stated in evidence that he had never consummated his marriage. His wife agreed, but insisted that the child was a result of sexual intercourse with another man.

Medical evidence that at the time of the birth Mrs Russell was a virgin was not contested and the court found in favour of her claim that she had not had intercourse after the divorce.

After two hearings Mr Russell won a decree nisi.

In 1924 the House of Lords upheld by a majority of three to two Mrs Russell's appeal legitimising her baby. In 1926 Mr Justice Swift granted a petition for a declaration that Mr Geoffrey Russell was the lawful child of his parents.

Mr Geoffrey Russell, now a theatrical impresario, aged 54, had claimed to be Lord Amphil's third son.

The Lord Chancellor decided the succession was unclear and both claimants petitioned the Crown. The Attorney General yesterday referred the case to the committee of privileges in the Lords.

THE ROOSEVELTS

In the latest of a series of articles on families who have altered the course of American history, Peter Conrad writes in *The Sunday Times Magazine* tomorrow about Theodore, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt.

Collision in pool before girls were drowned

From Our Correspondent Nottingham

Two girls aged nine who drowned during a school swimming lesson when under the supervision of two teachers and an instructor, were seen to collide as they swam just below the surface, an inquest heard yesterday.

Rebecca Galligan, aged eight, a classmate of the dead girls, told the inquest in Nottingham that she saw the two girls swim straight towards each other from opposite sides of the pool and bump their heads together.

The girls were later discovered lying just off the bottom by another classmate, Martin Shaw, aged nine, who told the teacher there were "two dummies" in the pool.

Verdicts of accidental death were recorded on the girls, Alison Buttery, of Seriby Road, Newthorpe, Nottinghamshire, and Karen Randall, of Main Street, Newthorpe. They died on November 17 during a school swimming lesson at a recreation centre at Kimberley, Nottingham.

Mr Anthony Rothera, the coroner, cleared the teachers and instructor of any blame.

"The chances of it happening were so small that I am almost unbelievably, I am satisfied on the evidence that these two girls did collide whilst swimming under the water, and clearly went straight to the bottom. One does not know what the time lag was between the collision and the time when they were found by Martin, but I have the impression it was only a very short time indeed."

He said there was no unreasonable delay in getting them out after they were found.

One delivery a day enough, Post Office told

From Arthur Osman Birmingham

Businessmen in the Midlands told senior Post Office executives yesterday that one guaranteed delivery of mail a day would be sufficient. Mr Alex Curran, managing director of the postal service, said that the end of second deliveries might be in sight. Cutting them out could save between £20m and £25m a year, and possibly more.

Speaking in Sutton Coldfield at one of a series of meetings organized by the Post Office and Post Office Users' National Council to find out what sort of service customers want, he said that four years ago the users' council had opposed drastic cuts. "The situation has now changed."

Representatives of some of Britain's largest industries said that one delivery a day would suit them, though those from nationalized industries like gas and electricity said that they needed the money which often came by the Saturday delivery.

Cannabis charge

Julia Anne Stonehouse, aged 24, company director, of Bramham Gardens, South Kensington, London, is to appear before Horseferry Road magistrates on Monday charged with possessing cannabis.

Schools 'a case for European court'

A warning that aggrieved parents may be able to take the Government before the European Court over education policy was given yesterday by Mr Norman St John-Stevens, Opposition spokesman on education.

He said at a Conservative dinner at Croydon that that could be a result of the Government's doctrine and intolerant policy of imposing comprehensive schools everywhere, and of implementing the threatened abolition of the private sector in education.

Mr St John-Stevens, MP for Chelmsford, said that in pursuing those two courses the Government was in danger of finding itself in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights and of "being hauled before the European Court of Human Rights by aggrieved parents and educators."

He said: "Parents are at liberty to set the processes of international law in motion by approaching the Human Rights Commission. The effect of such an intervention could result in a ruling by the court that the United Kingdom is in breach of fundamental treaty obligations."

"Once the matter has come sub judice the Government would be flouting the international community in general and the European signatories of the convention in particular by proceeding with legislation."

He added: "We could be

at the beginning of a new chapter in constitutional law if the protections afforded by the international human rights legislation are taken seriously by individual citizens and groups and determinedly invoked."

"That is not merely a personal or political view. I have been in consultation with eminent academics and international lawyers and they fully support my view."

Mr St John-Stevens said the Protocol of the European Convention on Human Rights dictated parents' rights to education for the children "in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions."

Library official unfairly dismissed, tribunal rules

A man who lost his £5,300-a-year job at a library described by a senior council official as a "cockpit of intrigue" was unfairly dismissed, an industrial tribunal has ruled. Mr Harold Smith, deputy chief librarian of Wandsworth council, London, was awarded £5,069 in the judgment announced yesterday.

Mr Smith, aged 57, was dismissed after an inquiry by the council into staff relationships in the libraries department. The committee which carried out the inquiry decided that Mr Smith had demonstrated "an inability to discharge his responsibilities with efficiency" and that he was unable to form "productive relationships" with colleagues. He was told he would be retired from February, 1975.

A four-day tribunal hearing former colleagues of Mr Smith told of petty squabbles and internal friction.

Mr Smith also made allegations at the tribunal, including one that a council officer was having an affair with a waste paper collector and that the council lost money because the collector was being paid "in kind". He said that an internal inquiry, which rejected his allegations about the running of

the library, had done a "white-wash" job.

In its findings the tribunal said that it could not accept that staff relations were seriously strained in the way alleged by the council. There was no doubt that the appointment of Mr Smith as deputy borough librarian in 1964 was not welcomed by the borough librarian, but "there was no evidence that this interfered with the efficient working of the library services."

Nor could the tribunal accept that Mr Smith made grave allegations of misconduct and impropriety against other members of the library staff to a councillor. There was a conflict of evidence on the question of Mr Smith's efficiency.

The tribunal also found that Mr Smith had shown he was keeping a pledge made to the council's staff management committee to act "in the best interests" of the library services.

The tribunal saw no reason for the council's more hostile attitude to Mr Smith with cooperation from library staff there should not be a harmonious working relationship in the future.

The sum awarded to Mr Smith included amounts for loss of salary, loss of redundancy rights, and unfair dismissal.

BMA advice to hospitals dispute staff

Continued from page 1

diagnosis or treatment as new cases.

In its guidance to doctors, the BMA says that if a patient is referred to a hospital by a general practitioner, he should be seen. Patients who were not referred would be seen by the duty doctor providing emergency cover, who must make a decision.

Where a patient is referred to outpatient treatment, the advice says, it is essential that the general practitioner's opinion on the degree of urgency should be clearly indicated. All cases of children should be seen as an emergency. But the treatment of children is not, as was expected, excluded from the doctors' action. Further guidance is to be issued and that may be included then.

In a covering letter, Dr Derek Stevenson, secretary of the BMA, says that action committees at every hospital should particularly ensure that the essential medical needs of patients were met. The paramount need of the committees, on which representatives of nurses and medical staff, GPs and community physicians should serve, would be to work out an acceptable scheme for their own area.

The National Union of Public Employees, which has about 200,000 members, mostly ancillary staff, working in the NHS, said yesterday that if consultants continued to treat their private patients in NHS hospitals while limiting their work from next Monday, the union might withdraw its members' services to private patients.

Mr Bernard Dix, the union's spokesman, said: "We hope that the majority of consultants will ignore the provocative policies of the mandarins of the BMA, but if they do not, then our two hundred thousand nursing and ancillary staff will be forced to defend the NHS."

Heart girl must wait: Mr Richard Welch, headmaster of a primary school at Great Horton, near Buntingford, Hertfordshire, complained yesterday that a hospital examination of one of his pupils was cancelled by telegram on her fifth birthday, named Michelle. The girl, named Michelle, who has undergone heart operations, was to have entered the National Heart hospital in London for three days.

Libel writ issued over 'Sunday Times' articles

Two writs were issued yesterday on behalf of Mr James Slater, former head of Slater, Walker.

The second claims damages for breach of contract and injunction against Mr Raw and damages for procuring breach of contract and an injunction against Mr Evans and Times Newspapers Ltd.

Mr Harold Evans is editor of *The Sunday Times*, and the article "Slater and the scorpion that bit back" appeared under the name of Charles Raw.

Explosives trial accused says he was in UVF

One of the five defendants in the Ulster explosives trial at Preston Crown Court said yesterday in an unsigned statement from the dock that he was a member of the Ulster Volunteer Force.

Norman Kinner said that, acting under orders from senior UVF officers from last January, he and others whose identity was never revealed to him tried to procure and transport "defensive" war materials into Ulster. He said the explosives were to be supplied for use in the event of a civil war in Northern Ireland.

Mr Kinner, aged 34, of High Vale Gardens, Belfast; Alan Tyrrell, aged 24, of Linc Grove, Hurstwood, Loughborough; and Harry Lloyd, aged 43, of Beattie Street, Liverpool; and Francis Wylie, aged 27, of

Ravenshill Road, Belfast, have all denied conspiring to cause explosions in Northern Ireland.

The Crown has alleged that all five were militant Protestant sympathisers and that explosives which were found on Mr Wylie's Belfast-bound food lorry at Heysham were intended for use by a "loyalist" paramilitary group.

Mr Montague Dwyer, QC, for Mr Kinner, told the court his client had elected not to give evidence, but had submitted a handwritten statement from the dock.

Mr Kinner, who emphasised that his statement was not a plea of guilty to the charge of conspiring to cause explosions, said the UVF was not a terrorist organisation.

The trial continues on Monday.

Tighter security on circus lions urged

From Our Correspondent Lincoln

Security on dangerous circus animals should be tightened, the jury recommended after an inquest yesterday on Stephen Jackson-Farr, aged 10, who died after being mauled by an escaped circus lion near his home in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, on Guy Fawkes night.

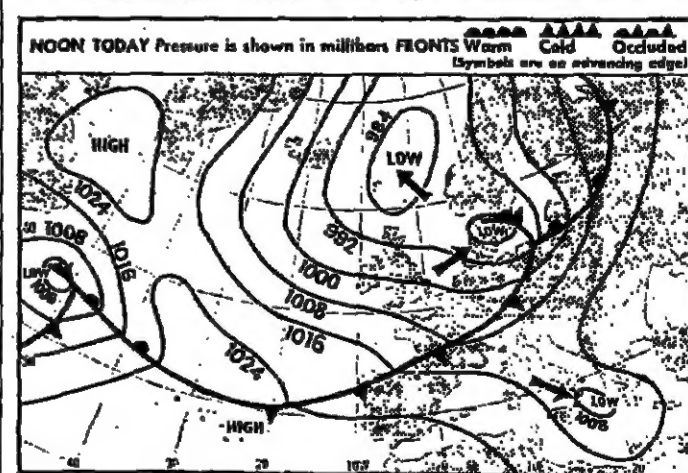
On the suggestion of Mr Humphrey Butcher, the coroner, the jury asked for a three-point safety plan to be incorporated with the verdict of accidental death.

The recommendations were that local authorities should provide adequate sites for circuses well away from housing and children. Police and fire services should advise and supervise and apply the same safety regulations as used for

theatres and cinemas. Circuses should introduce a safe method to transfer dangerous animals from outside cages into the circus ring.

The last recommendation came after the jury heard that a gate between a steel tunnel and the cage circus ring had jammed on the night when Stephen Jackson-Farr, of Mayfield Avenue, Gainsborough, sustained his fatal injuries.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	7:40 am	3.57 pm
	Moon rises:	Moon sets:
	3.2 am	1.46 pm
New moon: December 3.		
Lighting up: 4.27 pm to 7.12 am.		
High water: London Bridge 9.50 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 10.58 pm, 8.6m (22.7ft). Arromboure 4.22 am, 11.5m (37.7ft); 3.50 pm, 11.5m (39.2ft). Dover, 7.4 am, 6.2m (20.5ft); 7.50 pm, 6.2m (20.4ft). Hull, 1.51 am, 6.6m (21.7ft); 2.46 pm, 6.6m (21.6ft). Liverpool 7.33 am, 8.3m (27.2ft); 7.58 pm, 8.6m (28.1ft).		

Tomorrow	
	
Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.42 am	3.56 pm
Moon rises:	Moon sets:
4.22 am	2.17 pm
Lighting up: 4.26 pm to 7.13 am	
High water: London Bridge 11.3 am, 6.5m (22.5ft); 11.43 pm, 7.1m (23.3ft).	
Low water: Arromboure 4.27 am, 12.2m (40.0ft); 4.32 pm, 12.5m (41.2ft).	
Dover: 8.3 am, 6.5m (21.3ft); 8.49 pm, 6.5m (21.3ft).	
Hull: 3.0 am, 6.0m (22.2ft); 2.46 pm, 6.9m (22.8ft).	
Liverpool: 8.34 am, 8.7m (28.6ft); 8.58 pm, 8.9m (29.2ft).	

moderate or fresh; max temp 6°C (43°F), slight frost at first. Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, N Ireland: Mild and fog in places at first, sunny intervals with showers with local hail and snow over hills, max temp 5°C (41°F), frost by night. Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Showers and sunny intervals, sun on hills, moderate rain in W areas on Monday, generally rather cold, night frost. Sea passages: S North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NW, strong, sea rough; St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind NW, strong or storm; sea moderate or rough.

Yesterday London: Temp: max, 6 am to 9 am 9°C (48°F), min, 5 pm to 9 pm 3°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm 94 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm 0.69in. Sun, 24hr to 6 pm 0.1in. Wind, 24hr to 6 pm 5 mph. Bar, 24hr to 6 pm 1005.5 in Hg. 1,000 millibars = 29.92 in Hg.

Overseas selling prices: Australia, 100c; Belgium, 100c; Canada, 100c; France, 100c; Germany, 100c; Italy, 100c; Japan, 100c; Netherlands, 100c; Norway, 100c; Portugal, 100c; Spain, 100c; Sweden, 100c; Switzerland, 100c; USA, 100c. (All prices in pence per 100g.)

مركز الأمل

HOME NEWS

Procedural challenge to Government likely on press safeguards

By George Clark
Political Correspondent

The Opposition is likely to challenge the Government on the procedure to be adopted in the Commons when considering amendments to the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Amendment) Bill relating to press safeguards for private citizens.

Because of the unusual circumstances in which the Bill is introduced by the Government, both Houses are about to explore procedures which have never been fully used in the past.

The Government has tabled a motion to dispense with the committee and report stages of the Bill, but there is, nevertheless, to be a stage requiring at least a day's debate on the "suggested amendments" which have been tabled by Mr. Forster, Secretary of State for Employment, relating to a charter on the freedom of the press.

It has been assumed generally that the motion setting out the provisions for an appeal body to which people claiming victimization can present their case can be amended in the usual way. But Mr. Forster's Parliamentary Practice, which is the general guide to procedure, states that each "suggested amendment" shall be moved as a separate resolution.

That means that there could be a long list of "suggestions", some embodying parts of the Government's resolution, tabled as separate resolutions by the Conservatives and Liberals. Mr. Forster has promised that the Liberals will seek to include the proposals put forward by Lord Goodman and approved by the House of Lords to give legal backing to the charter of practice on press freedom.

Mrs. Thatcher and the Shadow Cabinet are committed to giving firm support to such amendments. They are anxious, in particular, to ensure that any person who is deprived of the opportunity of earning his living through the operation of the closed shop should have

Students to seek £245 rise in grants

By a Staff Reporter

The National Union of Students has decided to press for an increase of one third in student grants next year, which would exceed the Government's £6 limit on wage increases.

If a proposal of the NUS executive is approved by the union's conference in Scarborough next weekend, the NUS will ask the Government to increase the standard rate of student grant from £240 a year to £295.

The rate for students in London would be raised to £1,080. Such an increase would work out at more than £8 a week based on a 30-week academic year.

Mr. Charles Clarke, the president of the NUS, explained that his executive would recommend their conference to reject the £6 limit. He added that if the claim was not met even more students would be denied an opportunity to continue their education because of lack of money.

The claim is based on a calculation that students could receive £845 a year if the purchasing power of their grants is to stay at the same level as in 1962, when the present grant system was introduced.

The claim for an increase of £245 is based also on the assumption that inflation will run at an annual rate of 4 per cent during 1976-77.

General disclosed war plans in love letters

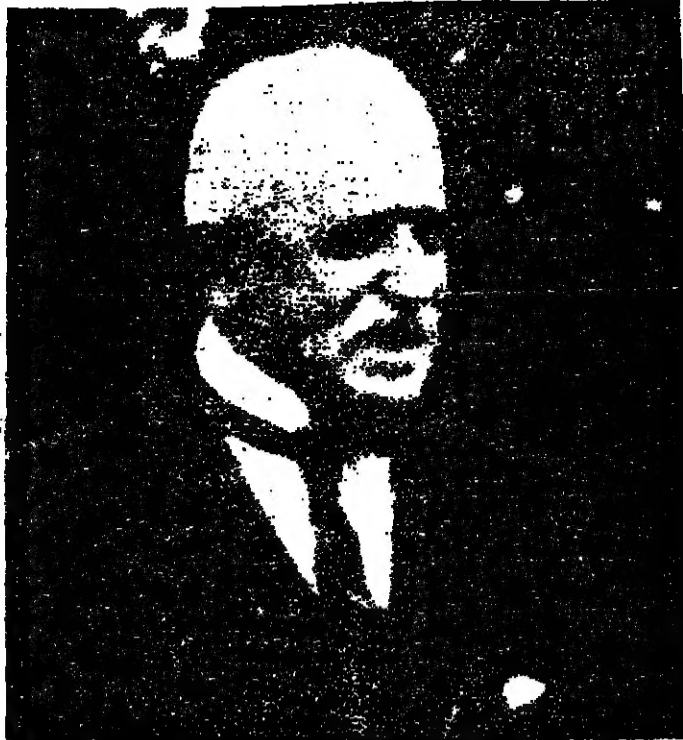
Sir John French's passion for the wife of a British diplomat revealed

By Philip Howard

Love letters have come to light that illuminate the psychology of one of the most controversial generals of the First World War, Sir John French, later created the first Earl of Ypres. French commanded the British Expeditionary Force in Flanders from the outset of that world earthquake until the end of 1915; when the terribly costly and fruitless advances of that year forced his resignation and replacement by Sir Douglas Haig. While the murderous deadlock of 1915 tightened, French was writing passionate letters to Mrs. Winifred Bennett, the wife of a British diplomat who was known to his family behind his back as Pomposus Percy.

The letters contain much private passion that appears both engaging and faintly comic in the cold light of public print; "war talk" about French's plans long before the D-days of the assaults; and trenchant comments about his allies and colleagues that confirm the allegation that French was a difficult man to get on with. Kitchener and the others at the War Office, with whom French so signally failed to harmonize, would have been shocked till their hair stood on end if they had known that their commander-in-chief was punning in writing to a civilian more about his secret plans than he vouchsafed them.

Here is an example from the build-up to the Battle of Loos: "Seriously My Darling the Day" is approaching and I am



Sir John French: Trenchant comments on allies and colleagues.

they sing 'Change of bowler'. If it comes to that YOU won't blame me and that's all I care about in all the world."

On the eve of the battle French wrote: "We attack at six points at daybreak tomorrow" and gave the locations of the concomitant French attacks as well as the British. He concluded with the gloomy but accurate prognosis: "I fear we may suffer very heavy losses."

Even more hair-raising for a security officer are the details French gave far in advance of his own movements and the itineraries of such eminent visitors to the front as the King, Asquith, Kitchener, Churchill, and Lloyd George. His visitors would have turned Staff Officers scarlet to read French's intimate opinions about them after their visits. In a characteristic passage he condemns all his political masters as "such infernal bunglers and liars". His repeated references to the French as terrible allies; his lurid descriptions of atrocities by these allies; and his conviction that the French soldiers had gone mad might also have been deemed alarmingly undiplomatic in a commander-in-chief. They must have made a refreshing change for the life of Pomposus Percy, who went through her family album raving hours on her husband's end.

These 99 explosively indignant and insouciant love letters were written by Mrs. Bennett's uncle, Sir grand-daughter considers that the scandal of the passion is now spent; and the letters will be sold at Sotheby's next month.

Decisions on Celtic Sea oil and gas next year

From A Staff Reporter
Ceerphilly

Mr. Wedgwood Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, said yesterday that he would make announcements next year about the future of oil and gas exploration in the Celtic Sea.

After discussions now going on between the governments of Britain, Ireland and France over boundaries to be fixed in the Celtic Sea, new exploration areas would be designated and applications for exploration licences would be invited. At the same time, he said, conditions for the new licences would be announced.

On the United Kingdom side of the Celtic Sea 44 blocks have been licensed but only one well has been drilled. That was in 1973 and the well was dry. The search for gas and oil in the British sector stopped early this year, partly because of the success in the North Sea and partly because of pressure on international companies to concentrate resources on proved areas in other parts of the world.

The Celtic Sea remains unproved, and oil companies are taking a much longer view of the prospects in that area than was originally thought.

Mr. Wedgwood Benn talked of the Celtic Sea during a visit to South Wales. He and his wife paid a visit to Bedwas colliery, Ceerphilly, and toured workings underground.

Last of six accused cleared after £300,000, 40-day trial

From Our Correspondent
Birmingham

Two councillors walked free from the dock at Birmingham Crown Court yesterday, after a trial lasting eight weeks and estimated to have cost £300,000. Nobody was convicted.

Originally six people, including Mr. T. Dan Smith, a former associate of John Poulson, had been charged with fraud in connection with an electrical firm of which they were directors.

It took the jury more than 24 hours to reach the last of their verdicts in the cases of Ronald Dillidge, aged 49, of Grasp Lane, Northampton, and Miss Thelma Mary Trewler, aged 55, of Kingsley Road, Northampton.

Both are members of Northamptonshire County Council and Mr. Dillidge is also a member of Northampton District Council, of which he is a former leader. Originally they were charged with four other directors of the Dyson Electrical Company Ltd on a number of counts of fraud, theft and false accounting.

At various stages during the 40-day hearing Mr. Justice Paine threw out all the charges except one of continuing the business, which went into liquidation in March, 1973, with a deficiency of £28,000, with intent to defraud the creditors. All six denied that and three, including Mr. Smith, were acquitted on the direction of the judge.

A fourth accused, Thomas Roy Ellison, aged 46, of London Street, Wallington, Cheshire, was acquitted by the jury on Thursday night, more

- ALSACE**
Vin d'Alsace Edelzwitz
Alsace or Vin d'Alsace followed by:
Gewürztraminer
Pinot
Riesling
Sylvaner
Tokay d'Alsace
- CHAMPAGNE**
Champagne
Rosé des Riceys (non-sparkling)
Coteaux Champenois (non-sparkling)
- BOURGOGNE**
Aloxe-Corton
Auxey-Duresses
Bâtard-Montrachet
Beaune
Blagny
Bonnay
Bourgogne
Bourgogne-Aligoté
Bourgogne-Hautes
Côte de Beaune
Bourgogne-Hautes
Côte de Nuits
Bourgogne-Marsannay
La Côte
Bourgogne-Passetoutains
Chablis
Chambertin
Chambertin-Clos de Beze
Chambolle-Musigny
Chapelle-Chambertin
Charmes-Chambertin
Chassagne-Montrachet
Chilly-les-Maranges
Chevalier-Montrachet
Chorey-les-Beaunes
Clos de la Roche
Clos de Tart
Clos-de-Vougeot

- Clos Saint-Denis
Clos du Val
Corton-Charlemagne
Côte de Beaune
Côte de Beaune-Villages
Côte de Nuits-Villages
Crémant de Bourgogne
Criots-Bâtard-Montrachet
Dezize-les-Maranges
Echézeaux
Fixin
Gevrey-Chambertin
Givry
Grands Echézeaux
Griotte-Chambertin
Ladoix
Latricières-Chambertin
Mâcon
Mâcon-Villages
Mâcon Supérieur
Mazis-Chambertin
Mazoyères-Chambertin
Meurcurey
Meursault
Montagny
Montrachet
Morey Saint-Denis
Musigny
Nuits-Saint-Georges
Pernand-Vergelesses
Petit Chablis
Pinot Chardonnay Mâcon
Pommard
Pouilly-Fuissé
Pouilly-Loché
Pouilly-Vinzelles
Puligny-Montrachet
Richebourg
Romanée
Romanée-Conti
Romanée-Saint-Vivant
Ruchottes-Chambertin
Rully
Saint-Aubin
Saint-Romain
Saint-Véran
Sampigny-les-Maranges

- Santenay
Savigny-les-Beaune
Tâche (La)
Volnay
Volnay-Santenots
Vosne-Romanée
Vougeot
- BEAUJOLAIS**
Beaujolais
Beaujolais-Villages
Brouilly
Chénas
Chiroubles
Côte de Brouilly
Fleurie
Juliénas
Morgon
Moulin-à-Vent
Saint-Amour
- JURA ET SAVOIE**
Arbois
Arbois-Pupillin
Arbois-mousseux
Château-Chalon
Crépy
Côte du Jura
Côte du Jura-mousseux
L'Étoile
L'Étoile-mousseux
Roussette de Savoie
Seysse
Seysse-mousseux
Vin de Savoie

- Côte Rotie
Côte du Ventoux
Crocet-Hermitage
Gigondas
Hermitage
Lirac
Saint-Joseph
Saint-Péray
Saint-Féray-mousseux
Tavel
- PROVENCE ET CORSE**
Bandol
Bellet
Cassis
Palette
Vin de Corse
Vin de Corse Patrimoine
Vin de Corse Coteaux d'Ajaccio
Vin de Corse Sartène
Vin de Corse Calvi
Vin de Corse Coteaux du Cap Corse
Vin de Corse Figari
Vin de Corse Porto Vecchio
- LANGUEDOC-ROUSSILLON**
Clairette de Bellegarde
Clairette du Languedoc
Collioure
Fitou
- SUD-OUEST**
Bergerac
Bergerac sec
Béarn
Blanquette de Limoux
Cahors
Côte de Bergerac
Côte de Bergerac-Moelleux
Côte de Bergerac
Côte de Buzet
Côte de Duras
Côte de Montravel
Côte du Frontonnais

- Gaillac
Gaillac-Premières Côtes
Gaillac-doux
Gaillac-mousseux
Haut-Montravel
Irouléguy
Jurançon
Jurançon-sec
Limoux-nature
Madiran
Monbazillac
Montravel
Pacherenc du Vic-Bilh
Pécharmant
Rosette
Vin de Blanquette
- BORDEAUX**
Barsac
Blaye
Bordeaux
Bordeaux Supérieur
Bordeaux-mousseux
Bordeaux-Haut-Benaug
Bordeaux-Côtes de Frans
Bordeaux-Côtes de Caston
Bourg ou Bourgeais
Cadillac
Cérons
Côte de Ciron-Fronsac
Côte de Bourg
Côte de Blaye
Côte de Bordeaux
Saint-Macaire
Côte de Fronsac
Entre-Deux-Mers
Entre-Deux-Mers-Haut-Benaug
Graves
Graves de Mayres
Haut-Médoc
Lalande de Pomerol
Libiran
Loupach
Lussac-Saint-Emilion
Margaux
Médoc
Montagne-Saint-Emilion

- Moulis or Moulis-en-Médoc
Néac
Parsac-Saint-Emilion
Pauillac
Pomerol
Premières Côtes de Blaye
Premières Côtes de Bordeaux
Puisseguin-Saint-Emilion
Sainte-Croix-du-Mont
Saint-Emilion
Saint-Estèphe
Sainte-Foy-Bordeaux
Saint-Georges-Saint-Emilion
Saint-Julien
Sauternes
- VAL DE LOIRE**
Anjou
Anjou Coteaux de la Loire
Anjou-pétillant
Anjou-mousseux
Bourgueil
Bonnezeaux
Cabernet d'Anjou
Chinon
Coteaux de l'Aubance
Coteaux du Layon
Coteaux du Layon-Chaume
Coteaux du Loir
Coteaux de Saumur
Crémant de Loire
Jasnières
Menetou-Salon
Montlouis
Montlouis-pétillant
Montlouis-mousseux
Muscadet
Muscadet de Coteaux de la Loire
Muscadet de Sévres-et-Maine
Fouilly-sur-Loire
Fouilly-Fumé
Quarts-de-Chaumes
Quincy
Reuilly
Rosé d'Anjou

- Rosé d'Anjou-pétillant
Rosé de Loire
Sancerre
Saint-Nicolas-de-Bourgueil
Savennières
Savennières-Coulee-de-Serrant
Savennières-Roches-aux-Moines
Saurmur
Saurmur-pétillant
Saurmur-mousseux
Touraine
Touraine-Azay-le-Rideau
Touraine-Amboise
Touraine-Mesland
Touraine-pétillant
Touraine-mousseux
Vouvray
Vouvray-pétillant
Vouvray-mousseux
- VINS DOUX NATURELS ET DE LIQUEUR**
Banyuls
Banyuls-Rancio
Clarette du Languedoc
Frontignan
Grand-Roussillon
Grand-Roussillon-Rancio
Maury
Maury-Rancio
Muscat de Beaumes-de-Venise
Muscat de Frontignan
Muscat de Lunel
Muscat de Miraval
Muscat de Rivesaltes
Muscat de Saint-Jean-de-Minervois
Pineau des Charentes
Muscat de Saint-Jean-de-Minervois
Rivesaltes
Rivesaltes-Rancio
Rasteau
Rasteau-Rancio
Vin de Frontignan

Cheese is to cost 3p a lb more from next week

By Hugh Clayton

Cheese will cost an extra 3p a pound next week, Mrs. Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday. Most of the increase is caused by the latest adjustment of the "green pound", the device for expressing EEC farm prices in sterling.

Mrs. Williams laid an order before Parliament yesterday raising price ceilings on all subsidised cheeses. The top price for farmhouse Cheddar, for example, will be 69p a pound. Prices in most shops will be well below the maximum levels because of the Government's curbs on profits.

A second order provides for new maximum prices for bread in the wake of a cut in the subsidy already announced. Mrs. Williams made clear yesterday that although most large loaves will rise by the 1p announced, some "speciality" types will increase by 1 1/2p.

The changes mean that most large, sliced loaves will cost about 17p next week instead of 16p. Some shops, however, will sell such loaves this weekend for as little as 12p.

Oxford rejects external education degree

From Our Correspondent
Oxford

A move to set up an external Bachelor of Education honours degree at Oxford University for students at two teacher training colleges in the city has been defeated in a postal vote by members of Congregation. Voting was 648-329. The proposal involved Culham College and Westminster College.

Mr. Donald Crompton, principal of Westminster College, criticised Dr. Harry Judge, director of the university's department of educational studies, for campaigning for its rejection, which he said would mean first and second-class citizens in teaching.

£30,000 beef burnt
Frozen beef valued at £30,000 was destroyed when a lorry and trailer caught fire on the north-bound carriageway of the M6, near Stafford, yesterday.

16 hurt in bus crash
Three people were detained in hospital after two buses collided in Southport, Lancashire, yesterday. Thirteen others were also injured.

Aire road inquiry date
The public inquiry into a plan for a trunk road through the Aire Valley, Yorkshire, will resume on February 3, the Department of the Environment announced. Protesters broke up the inquiry on November 20.

The world's 291 finest wines. 300th year running.

Traditional, proven methods. They know which vines grow best in which soil. How to prune for a high quality grape. How to replenish the soil without artificially forcing the crop. How to bring on the young wine, until it's ripe for bottling.

And thankfully, the Appellation Contrôlée regulations protect all this time-honoured expertise, patience and experience from the unquenchable demands of the modern world. They regulate the maximum yield of A.C. wine from each vineyard and, importantly, the minimum alcohol content of the wine.

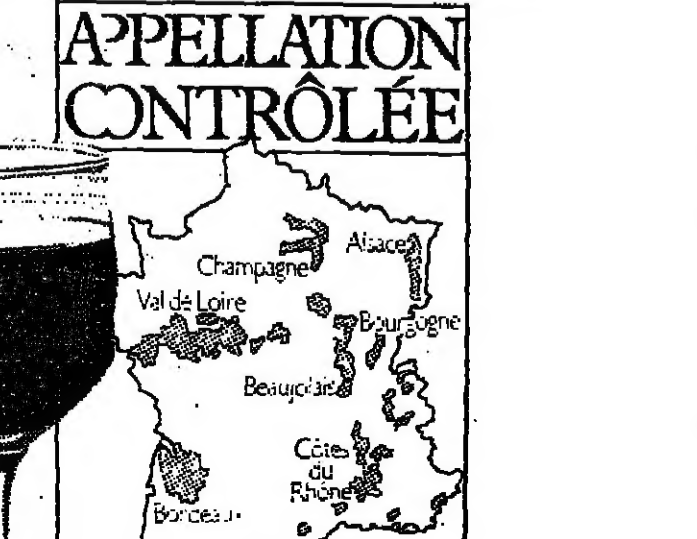
And because every wine has its own personal and localised character, methods differ slightly not only from region to region, but from vineyard to vineyard.

Whether it be a quirk of local climate or soil, every subtle variation is protected by A.C.

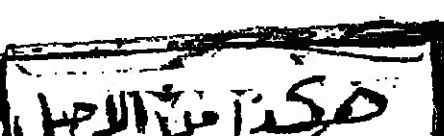
This is why the words Appellation Contrôlée appear on labels in so many different ways. You will see them printed with

the name of the particular cru, vineyard or chateau.

But however you see them written, the words Appellation Contrôlée are your guarantee that the wine you are buying is not only one of the best wine-growing regions of France. But has been produced to the most exacting, traditional French methods.



Other precautions were that if there was an earlier will it should be examined, and any proposed alterations should be discussed with the testator.



WEST EUROPE

Fate of oil conference depends on Britain

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov. 28

When the European Community heads of government meet in Rome on Monday and Tuesday, either Britain agrees to some compromise on its demand for separate representation at the energy conference in Paris on December 16 or the conference will not take place. That, at least, is how the matter is viewed here.

The French Government considers that very serious damage would be done to the cohesion and therefore the prestige of the Community if the conference met with Britain absent or only represented separately.

It would have been proved incapable of speaking with one voice in a matter vital to its own future and to its relations with the oil producers and the developing countries. It was better, in such circumstances, that the conference should be postponed.

Britain's attitude is considered the more disconcerting here because last July, Mr Callaghan, the Foreign Secretary, gave his French opposite number to understand that if a common mandate on energy was worked out before the energy conference, Britain would agree to being represented by the Community. Yet in September in Brussels he made it clear that even if such a mandate was worked out, Britain would insist on going it alone.

In the meantime, the French Government argues, a mandate has been worked out with British cooperation which really amounts to a Community policy in all respects save the setting of a floor price for oil.

The British Government, for obvious reasons, insists on this but the French Government is less convinced of its advantages, since there is very little likelihood in its view of the oil price falling to such an extent as to render British investment in North Sea oil uneconomic.

But these aspects of the case are considered relatively minor compared to the legitimate doubts cast by Britain's refusal to be represented by the Community. It inevitably prompts the suspicion that Britain does not wish the Community to progress beyond its present stage of a free trade area and an agricultural common market.

Our Bonn Correspondent writes: Here, Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, expects "concrete agreements" to emerge from Monday's meeting in Rome, a Bonn Government spokesman said today.

The Chancellor wrote to the heads of the nine early Community members early this month setting out Bonn's ideas and wishes for a medium-term European policy. According to the spokesman, a number of recipients had already responded positively.

On the same day that a company manager awaiting trial for a fatal labour accident was freed from prison on bail by the Rennes court of appeal, another manager in an accident case was sentenced at Troyes Assizes yesterday to a fortnight's imprisonment, 36 fines of 1,000 francs and ordered to pay damages of 5,000 francs (about £555).

The case was described by the public prosecutor, a woman known for her advanced views on justice, as one of the most serious the court had had to deal with. It involved a 17-year-old construction worker who fell 60ft from scaffolding one night last winter and suffered permanent nervous disorders as a result. The only safety precaution had consisted of two loose ropes.

An inquiry conducted by the police and labour inspectors disclosed that all the employees of the firm worked a 12-hour shift each day, with a break of only one hour. The young worker concerned was below the age for night work and doctors had said he should do light duties only.

The defence pleaded that the employer, M Georges Martin, a

building contractor, was over-extended with work and could not attend to every detail.

The public prosecutor demanded a fortnight's suspended sentence, but the court—presided over by a judge not known for advanced ideas—decided that so much negligence deserved an exemplary sentence.

"We judged with complete impartiality," the judge declared. "One must avoid any preconceived notions and apply the law with the intention of being equitable. In the Troyes Assizes, labour accidents are frequent. Employers are not public enemies. We wished to inflict a light sentence on Georges Martin, who seemed to ignore all warnings, to remind him that the law exists."

As the conservative newspaper *L'Aurore* pointed out, it is years of indulgence towards breaches of safety regulations, has the value of a warning. Employers' associations can no longer protest against court decisions on the ground that they are dictated by the partisan mentality of young, progressive judges. Now they will have to launch a campaign to inform their members of the importance of safety measures.

British trawlermen work uneasily under threat of fresh attacks

Three more vessels sent to defend cod war fleet

From Michael Horsnell
On board the *Miranda*,
off south-east Iceland, Nov. 28

It has been an uneasy 48 hours since Icelandic gunboats last attacked the British trawling fleet, for where they have left off the weather has taken over. Snow showers and gale force nine conditions, with moderate icing off north-east Iceland, resulted in poor conditions today.

Why the Icelanders have left the fleet alone is not yet clear, but there has been no feeling of elation because the daily routine is still governed by the threat of attack.

The Government support ship *Miranda* arrived in Icelandic waters today from Hull on a five-week tour of duty. It will be joined tomorrow by two Royal Navy frigates.

The dispatch of the three vessels to the area indicates how seriously the threat of harassment and the need for support is taken: for each of the 1,000 or so British trawlermen off the Icelandic coast, there will now be another man to defend him.

The daily routine begins at 9.30 am when the *Othello*, the Government's other support ship in the area, begins its morning rounds. "All British trawlers, all British trawlers. Good morning. This is *Othello*."

But if trawlers scatter the

problem of defence cover is more difficult.

How long this third cod war will go on is anybody's guess, but it could be until the United Nations Law of the Sea conference next March, when the principle that all countries with coastlines should impose a 200-mile fishing limit is likely to be accepted.

Meanwhile, this bitter dispute about how much we can fish goes on. Probably the present full in hostilities is to allow the diplomats the right atmosphere in which to negotiate.

For the seamen, however, life is rather less delicate. On the *Miranda*, they have been warned that water rationing is up, and there is no chance of any shore leave. Yet despite the threat of hostility from Icelanders, the *Miranda* has to be prepared to dash into an Icelandic port even if it is refused permission.

Its Red Cross role means it may be called on at any time to take a sick or injured man off a trawler and take him ashore for hospital treatment. Captain Willis Bown said: "I will tell the Icelandic coast guard that I am going in even if I am refused permission. I can't tell what the consequences might be, but we have a job to do."

Icelanders disclose their tactics

Reykjavik, Nov. 28.—Iceland's Althing (Parliament) today approved a new fishing agreement reached with West Germany last week. Opposition parties opposed the measure but the Government had a majority of 42 votes to 18.

Under the treaty, 40 West German trawlers will be allowed to catch 60,000 tons of fish a year inside Iceland's new 200-mile limit, mostly cod and ocean perch. Only 5,000 tons will be cod.

Mr Hallgrímsson, the Prime Minister, told the Althing that Iceland's tactics in the quarrel with Britain were to reach agreements with other countries and then embarrass the British on the international stage.

Our Copenhagen Correspondent writes: The Danish Government has a unilateral extension of Greenland's fishing limits to 200 miles if the conference on the law of the sea fails to approve limits that can protect Greenland's claims to the outer fishing zone. Mr Jørgen Peder Hansen, Minister for Greenland, has said here.

Reshuffle expected in Spain within 10 days

From Our Correspondent
Madrid, Nov. 28

King Juan Carlos is expected to announce changes in the Government within the next 10 days, according to reports published in Madrid today. The King has been talking at his Zarzuela Palace with a wide range of political figures who could form the nucleus of a new government.

Meanwhile, common criminals are being released gradually from prisons as a result of the King's general pardon announced on Tuesday, but there are no signs yet that the pardon will affect any political prisoners.

Authorities have sent out notices to prisoners ordering the release of prisoners who fall within the terms of the pardon. In Barcelona 50 common criminals have been released so far, according to the director of the city's Model prison, Señor León Zalcasín, another 500 to 600 out of a total of 1,500 are expected to be released soon.

The King will have to choose a new president of the Government and of the Council of the Realm within the next nine days. Señor Rodríguez de Valcarlos ended his six-year term of office as president of both bodies yesterday.

According to a report in the evening paper *Informaciones*, Señor Valcarlos, a staunch Franco supporter, is unlikely to be re-elected. Several names for the job are circulating, including that of Señor Carlos Arias Navarro, the Prime Minister, which would then enable the King to choose a new president of the Government.

In Madrid, Barcelona, Saragossa and San Sebastián, hundreds of demonstrators yesterday shouted slogans demanding the release of political prisoners. Twenty-two people, including five Spanish journalists and three actors, arrested outside Madrid's Carabanchel prison were released late last night.

Authorities have also released from prison a number of persons arrested this summer in connexion with the capture of Señor José Ignacio Pérez Beategui, who faces charges over the assassination of Admiral Carrero Blanco.

A new president, in north-west Spain, 12 out of 33 students arrested for an illegal meeting were released.

Kidnapped woman's body found

Helsingborg, Sweden, Nov. 28.

The police found today the body of Miss Louise Marstrand whose parents had earlier received one of her severed fingers and a ransom note demanding 325,000 kronor (£36,000).

She was buried in a shallow grave near a road outside Helsingborg, about six miles from her parents' farm.

A man of 20, who the police allege, has confessed to strangling Miss Marstrand while travelling with her in a car from Helsingborg to Hamburg, is being held on suspicion of murder. He has not yet been formally charged.

The man was detained after the operator of a hotel telephone switchboard had overheard a call he was making. According to the police, the man cut off the dead woman's finger and an accomplice wrapped it in a parcel and put it in the mailbox of her parents, Mr and Mrs Bertil Olsson. A taxi driver was paid to deliver the ransom note, the police added.

The police are searching for another man who once worked as foreman for Mr Olsson. The police said that the man who had planned the kidnapping had advertised in a newspaper for an accomplice.

Four men and a woman were formally charged today with responsibility for the terrorist raid on the West German Embassy in Stockholm last April.

Dr Siegfried Buback, the federal Attorney-General, announced that he had laid charges alleging two murders, seizure of hostages, and attempted coercion of the Federal Government. The accused are Lutz Tafer, aged 31, a student; Karl-Heinz Dellwo, aged 23, unemployed; Bernard Rössner, aged 25, a photographer; and Hanna Krabbe, aged 30, a student.

Six terrorists, who sought the release of 26 people in West German prisons, stormed the embassy building and took 13 of the staff hostage. The military attaché, Colonel Andreas von Mirbach, and the economic counsellor, Herr Heinz Hillebrand, were killed. One terrorist was killed in a gun battle with Swedish police, and another died later from wounds.

The trial will take place in the Düsseldorf state high court, but no date has been fixed yet.

Jail term over building accident

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov. 28

On the same day that a company manager awaiting trial for a fatal labour accident was freed from prison on bail by the Rennes court of appeal, another manager in an accident case was sentenced at Troyes Assizes yesterday to a fortnight's imprisonment, 36 fines of 1,000 francs and ordered to pay damages of 5,000 francs (about £555).

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The defence pleaded that the employer, M Georges Martin, a

building contractor, was over-extended with work and could not attend to every detail.

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building contractor, was over-extended with work and could not attend to every detail.

Abductors of Fiat chief's relative keep silence

From Our Correspondent
Milan, Nov. 28

There was still no news tonight of Signora Carla Ovasza, who was kidnapped on Wednesday night in Turin. She is the mother-in-law of the daughter of Signor Giovanni Agnelli, the chairman of Fiat.

A rumour that a ransom of 10m lire (about £6,670) had been asked was denied by the family lawyer in Turin today. However, contacts with the kidnappers are usually denied by the family while negotiations are going on.

Another rumour that the kidnappers had told Fiat officials that Signora Ovasza

had been abducted as a

"reprisal" against Fiat, was also denied.

The police do not rule out the possibility of political terrorism, and the Red Brigades are being mentioned.

At the same time as the kidnapping an unusually high number of robberies took place in Turin. This might have aimed at keeping the police busy.

Another factor is the arrest earlier this month of a left-wing couple in whose house papers referring to a "Stalin plan" for the kidnapping of Signor Agnelli were seized. From the papers it appeared that the plan was judged "too difficult and too dangerous".

House) today to deal with the economic recession.

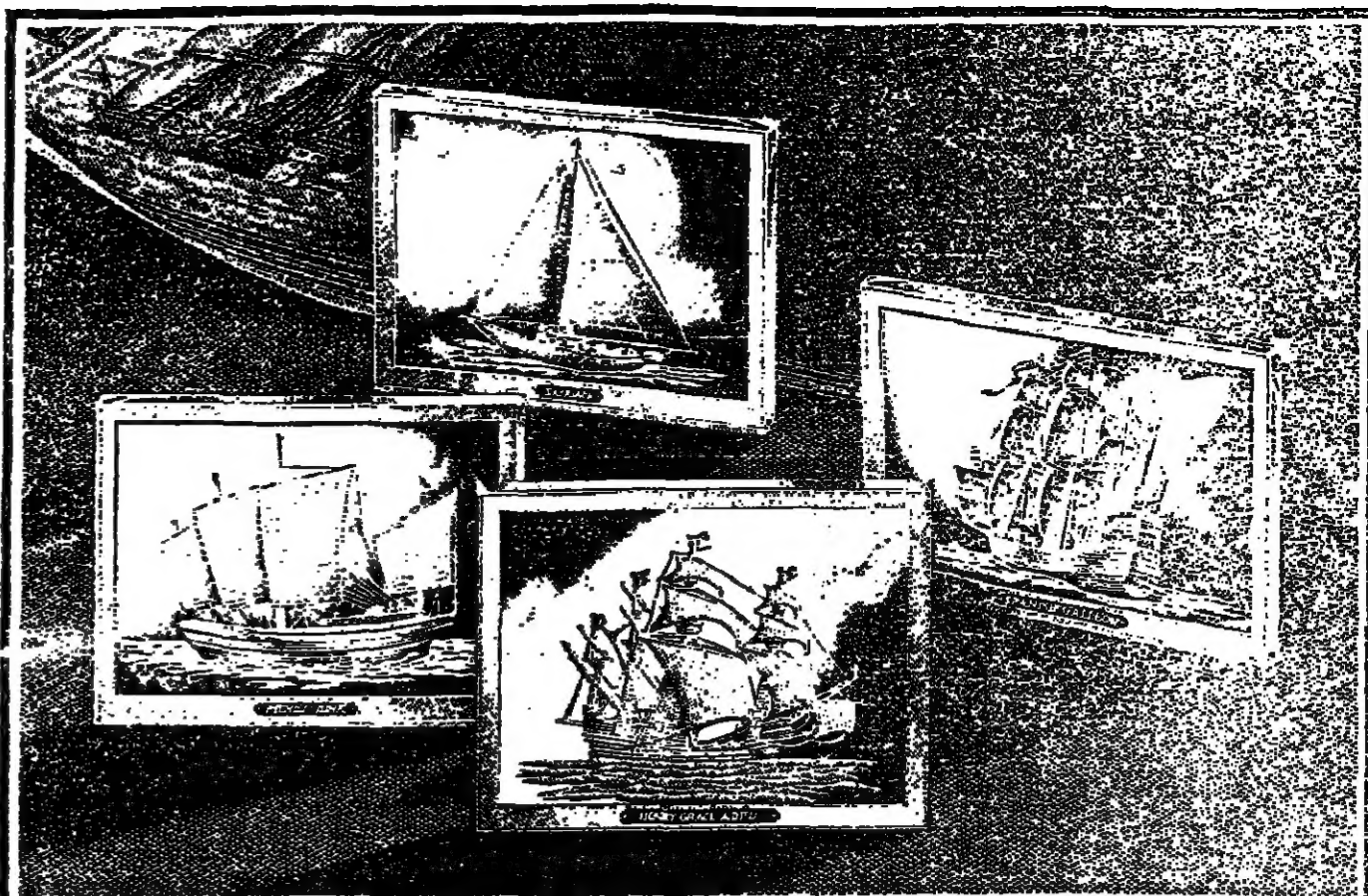
Monthly contributions will amount to 3 per cent of an employee's wages up to a maximum of DM3,100 (£381). The present rate is 2 per cent up to a maximum wage of DM2,800. Employers and employees pay equal shares.

Parliament also trimmed aid for widows and orphans and reduced re-training grants—*Reuters*.

German pay packets hit

Bonn, Nov. 28.—West German workers will have to increase their insurance contributions by 50 per cent to help pay for the million people out of work, Parliament decided here today.

The increase, which comes into force on New Year's Day, hits the pay packets of more than 20 million employees. It was one of the measures laid before the Bundestag (Lower

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OVERSEAS

War in Angola presented in Soviet press as a struggle against two groups of imperialist forces

From Our Correspondent Moscow, Nov 28

The newly independent republic of Angola is being attacked on two sides by imperialist forces, according to the Soviet press, covering the war. The Marxist Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) was the true leader of the Angolan people, he wrote, both the rival movements, the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA), were the creations of "reactionary foreign circles".

The Pravda report said Mr Holden Roberto was a Zaire businessman who had been financed by the American Central Intelligence Agency, until, after its formation, had been supported and armed by UNITA, the Portuguese secret police under Dr Salazar. Both groups had American advisers and Chinese instructors.

The military operations of the FNLA were directed by Portuguese former officers and agents of the Pide. From the outset their troops consisted mainly of mercenaries of many nationalities. From the be-

ginning of October the FNLA had been reinforced by Portuguese, South African and Zairean recruits.

The correspondent quoted a Soviet broadcast report that, in South Africa, Spanish and Portuguese fascists, Pide agents, American Vietnam veterans and Belgian mercenaries were being sent to fight with regular units of the South African Army. He did not mention the presence in Luanda of any Soviet advisers or technicians, or of planes, siding the MPLA, or of shipments of Soviet arms.

This affirmation of the sole legitimacy of the MPLA and condemnation of the other factions was the only Soviet reaction so far to the warning from Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, reinforced by President Ford, of the possible repercussions on détente of Soviet involvement.

Western observers here believe the Russians thought a swift success by the MPLA, with their diplomatic and other resources, would give them an easy victory that would serve as a rebuff to Chinese influence in Africa. The strong adverse reaction from the West came as a surprise.

London: The military organization of the MPLA said today its forces were advancing on all fronts to reunite the country and expel "all anti-national invaders".

A broadcast from Luanda radio, monitored here, also said the forces of the MPLA had shot down an aircraft belonging to "the neo-fascists".

"Three bodies were found in the wreckage of this aircraft, two of them identified as being whites and one black," it said.

Brussels: President Nyerere of Tanzania said here that the Organization of African Unity should react to South African intervention in Angola by burying its differences and condemning foreign involvement in the newly independent country.

He ruled out as impractical, however, any armed conflict between South Africa and the rest of black Africa in Angola.

"It is not easy for the OAU to mount an African force," he said.

Dar es Salaam: The Organization of African Unity liberation committee has called South African intervention in Angola "a naked aggression whose magnitude and scope exceed all foreign intervention in Africa".



Bobby Charlton, member of a British charity golf team which raised £12,000 for the Joyland Salvation Army School for crippled children in Kenya, teaches the school football team ball control.

Comecon experiments with guest workers

By Gabriel Rouay

Tensions, shortages and clashing work styles have marred the start of the building of the Orenburg pipeline, Comecon's first major co-operative venture in the Soviet Union.

Under a general convention, signed by six East European states in June, 1974, they are supposed to provide 25,000 "guest workers" and help to finance the exploitation of the rich gas deposits in Orenburg, in the Urals. Each of the states will build a section of the pipeline to the western borders of the Soviet Union.

Romania, although a signatory to the convention, has not yet joined the East Germans, Czechoslovaks and Hungarians who provide the advance party of the Comecon work force.

The fact that the pipeline is reported to have been divided into five sections, instead of the originally planned six, seems to indicate that Moscow has lost patience with the Romanians and their share has been re-allocated to the others, mainly the Bulgarians.

The Hungarian advance party, with its headquarters in Ivano Frankovsk, in the Ukraine, arrived on July 15, but because of "administrative difficulties" they were not paid anything until the end of September.

Shortages of building materials, which must all be shipped out from Hungary and failure to sign the contract for cement, let alone provide it, "have made for a difficult start," according to Vladimir Kapilevsky, the chief engineer of the Ukrainian section of Interagstroy, the Soviet Party in the Comecon venture.

In an interview with Pravda, the Soviet Minister for Construction of Oil and Gas In-

dustria has revealed further "objective difficulties". The 56-inch pipes, bought from West Germany and France, are apparently piling up at the Baltic and Black Sea ports for lack of unloading and transport facilities.

The industrialized East European states are also helping Russia with other projects which, originally, were to have been realized with the help of American and Japanese technology and capital. Construction workers from Eastern Europe, including Romanians, have started work on a vast paper and cellulose plant in Ust-Ilimsk.

Recruitment for these Comecon projects is carried out through party and youth organization networks, and the party-controlled East European communications media has been putting on glowing reports about the delights of working "on the construction sites of communism".

To be working as a "guest worker" in the Soviet Union is presented as an honour, but there are, presumably, for the politically backward, cash bonuses, pay incentives and, for those signing a three-year contract, permission to import tax-free Soviet durable consumer goods.

Although the use of guest workers in West Germany and elsewhere in Western Europe has been denounced by the East European press as a "crude form of capitalist exploitation", the Soviet-bloc countries have for some time themselves been experimenting with the very same system to solve their labour problems.

Hungarian "guest workers" have, on a limited scale, been used in East German factories; Hungary and Czechoslovakia have a project on joint labour exploitation in border communities; and Bulgaria has been sending thousands of labour jacks to the Soviet Union to ease its employment problems.

Japan's biggest strike may be intensified

Tokyo, Nov 28.—Public employees, who have staged the biggest strike Japan has ever had, said today they would intensify their action because the Government had not responded to their demand for the legal right to withdraw their labour.

The 360,000-strong Government Workers' Union is calling for the restoration of the right to strike, which was withdrawn 27 years ago.

The strike, which entered its third day today, has crippled the state railway system and affected postal services and telecommunications. Mr Miki, the Prime Minister, said the Government would never give in to such pressure.—Reuter.

No charges over girl's death in respirator

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Nov 28

By poisoning of Nassau county, on Long Island, has decided not to bring charges over a recent case in which a girl in a coma died after the respirator keeping her alive was disconnected. The investigation into the case of Maryanne Dali, aged 16, did not justify bringing charges, he said.

Maryanne, who had meningitis and other diseases, died earlier this month in Mineola after a visit from her mother and her aunt.

Mr Denis Dillon, the prosecutor, said today: "We are unable to prove that one or both pulled the plug."

Fretilin's flag flying over 'independent East Timor'

Dili, Nov 28.—Fretilin military forces in East Timor declared the Portuguese colony independent tonight. The flag of Portugal was lowered in Dili's main square and a new flag representing an independent East Timor was raised.

The left-wing Fretilin forces proclaimed the territory the People's Democratic Republic of East Timor. Their unilateral declaration coincided with mounting fears in Dili, the capital, of a full-scale Indonesian invasion.

Fretilin (Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor) says it has controlled the territory since civil war broke out early in August. The organization's central committee assembled at the entrance to the former Portuguese administration building today and residents gathered outside.

After the flag-raising, a minute's silence was observed for "the heroes who have died for our country". Mr Francisco Xavier do Amaral, the Fretilin president, then read the independence declaration. Portugal's "constant stall-

ing" on peace negotiations, while the Indonesian military build-up on the border with West Timor continued, had contributed to the independence decision, a Fretilin official told reporters.

According to Fretilin, 49 Afro-Asian countries have pledged support for East Timor's right to independence. It is waiting to hear today that Tanzania, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau have also formally pledged to seek recognition of Fretilin as the sole legitimate representative of the East Timorese people at the next general assembly of the United Nations.

The civil war broke out after the Timor Democratic Union (UDT) seized key installations last August and demanded independence. It now favours integrating with Indonesia and its forces have been operating inside those of a third political faction in the fighting, Apodeti, which also seeks integration with Indonesia.

After the fighting started, the Portuguese administration left Dili for the offshore island of Atauro.—Reuter.

Supreme Court judge nominated by Mr Ford

Washington, Nov 28.—President Ford today nominated Judge John Paul Stevens, aged 55, to the Supreme Court seat vacated on November 12 by Justice William Douglas, who retired.

The President, who leaves for China tomorrow, made the announcement at a White House press briefing.

Judge Stevens, a federal circuit court judge, was among a number of potential candidates, into whose background the Federal Bureau of Investigation began investigations this week.

The Senate judiciary committee will hold hearings, probably next week, on the nomination and make its recommendation to the appointment to the full Senate. Senate approval is expected before Judge Stevens can take up the post.

Judge Stevens has a reputation as a moderate conservative on the bench.—Reuter.

Scathing US attack on South Africa

New York, Nov 28.—The South African political system came under scathing attack from the United States at the United Nations today. It was described as a system in which laws were designed to stifle and intimidate opposition and make criminal acts that were democracy's lifeblood.

Mr Clarence Mitchell, of the American delegation, delivered his government's statement at a plenary meeting of the General Assembly. A statement he had made on October 23 that people were detained in South Africa for speaking out against apartheid, was described by Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, as a downright lie.

Responding to this today, Mr Mitchell said: "If the Prime Minister wants to establish credibility at the United Nations on the matter of repressive laws and policies in his country, he cannot do so by trying to narrow the issue to one point or by calling for the name of one victim."

"He would be better off if he could give positive assurance that his government will stop making arrests and holding persons without charges."

Mr Mitchell said Mr Vorster's heated response showed that at last he was paying attention to the much deserved criticism of the racial policies and policies of South Africa.

"I wish to emphasize that in making this statement I am speaking for the United States. The South African Government had the form but, for 80 per cent of the past 17 years, it was the substance of democracy, Mr Mitchell said.

The majority party of the country's white minority had made these people political non-persons by forbidding even their participation in the affairs of white political parties. They were permitted political activity only in tightly circumscribed segregated bodies existing on sufferance of the white Parliament.

Mr Mitchell said the South African judiciary had no constitutional basis on which to protect the individual against violation of internationally recognized human rights.

Moscow to free dissident

Moscow, Nov 28.—The Soviet authorities have indicated that they are about to free Mr Leonid Plyushch, a dissident Ukrainian mathematician, from a prison psychiatric hospital where he has been detained since 1973.

Mrs Tatyana Khodorovich, a linguist, told Western journalists that the mathematician's wife, Tatyana, had telephoned from Kiev today to say the authorities had told her that her request to emigrate with her husband and two sons had been "resolved positively".

The apparent Soviet change of heart followed a wide campaign on behalf of Mr Plyushch in the West, particularly in France, where Mr Georges Marchais, the Communist Party leader, added his voice to the protest.

Mrs Khodorovich said Mr Plyushch told her she was convinced that the statement by Mr Marchais, supported by a similar appeal in the French party organ L'Humanite, had a significant effect.

Mrs Plyushch was called to the Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs on Wednesday to be told that Professor Boris Petrovsky, the Soviet Minister of Health, had telephoned from Moscow with orders that the Plyushch family's demands be met.—Reuter.

British experts to develop Dhofar

From Henry Stanhope Salalah, Nov 28

A team of experts from the Ministry of Overseas Development have been sent to Oman during the next two weeks to advise the young Sultan Qaboos on his civil development programme in the southern province of Dhofar.

Britain is anxious to encourage the building of roads, schools and hospitals and the development of agriculture as the 10-year-old war in Dhofar enters what appear to be its final stages.

Economic priorities for Dhofar were discussed by the Sultan and Mr Callaghan during a one-day visit to Oman by the Foreign Secretary who is on a tour of the Persian Gulf states. His next stop will be in Abu Dhabi.

Mr Callaghan, accompanied by a team of advisers, flew into Muscat today but left almost immediately for lunch and three hours of talks with the Sultan in his southern palace here at Salalah. Dhofar's hot and dusty climate.

Britain is understood to be promoting the concept of a triangular partnership, between Britain, underdeveloped Middle East countries like Oman, and the richer Arab states like Saudi Arabia. Under such an arrangement Oman's development would be funded by Arab petrodollars and guided by British expertise and technical assistance.

Britain is maintaining its position as the most influential foreign power in Oman, with 30 British firms represented here and with exports to Oman rising to an estimated £95m in the first nine months of the year. The Sultan, who conducted Mr Callaghan on a tour of his herd of Jersey cattle, was apparently anxious to retain his close links with London.

Major-General Kenneth Perkins, commander of the Sultan's Armed Forces, said yesterday that the war against the rebels in Dhofar should be over by Christmas.

Military engineers are already building a formidable new defensive line of barbed wire, mines and sensors less than three miles from the ill-defined border with the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (South Yemen).

Even after the last echoes of gunfire have died away among the rugged Dhofar mountains, however, the Sultan and his 16,000-strong army will begin an anxious period of waiting until the long-term intentions of South Yemen, which has been backing the rebels with regular troops, become clear.

More than 400 British servicemen, as well as about 220 privately contracted Britons, have been leading and training the Omanis. About 3,500 Iranian and a handful of Jordanians are also still here, and it seems unlikely that they will be returned from this strategically important area until peace is assured.

General Perkins, one of 206 men serving with the Sultan on an assignment from the British services, traced the success of the Sultan's troops to a post-monsoon offensive begun on October 1.

At that stage, the nearest Government defence line was the Damavand line, about 25 miles from the South Yemen frontier. About 500 rebels, supported by between 300 and 400 South Yemen regular troops, were operating in the area, and 130mm Soviet-made guns were hitting Government positions.

Ex-dictator sent troops into campus

From Our Correspondent Athens, Nov 28

Mr George Papadopoulos, the former Greek dictator who is under a sentence of death, today assumed full responsibility for ordering the Greek Army to quell the uprising at the Athens Polytechnic on November 16, 1973.

Mr Papadopoulos and 32 others are being tried by the Athens Court of Appeal in connection with the killing of at least 24 and the wounding of over 1,000 persons during the operations.

The former dictator today stood up and said he would assume full responsibility for the actions of the Athens police.

His statement came after a controversy over the timing of the Athens police request for help from the Army. The court was shown the official application of the Athens police which was dated November 17, 1973, at 22.30 hours—almost 23 hours after the Army's intervention with tanks and troops.

Meanwhile, at the Athens court martial the prosecutor asked for 10 years' sentences on two former commanders of the special intervention centre East-Escas, cashiered Colonel Theodoros Theophylaktos, and Major Nikolaos Razafinis, and for Major Anastasios Spasos, another former commander, seven years' imprisonment.

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Hongkong, Nov 28.—Police raided a flat here and seized arms and explosives apparently intended to back a political operation. One Chinese was arrested.

Mr Jenkins in Israel

Tel Aviv, Nov 28.—Mr Jenkins, the British Home Secretary, arrived here tonight to address the annual Balfour Day dinner in Tel Aviv on Sunday.

Snow cuts off villages

Ankara, Nov 28.—A blizzard in eastern Turkey cut off villages, closed schools and brought down power lines.

Chief minister quits

Delhi, Nov 28.—Mr J. N. Bahuguna, Congress Party Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, today announced his resignation but did not give any reason.

In brief

Detained priests to leave Chile

Santiago, Nov 28.—Two Italian Roman Catholic priests have been given safe conduct and will leave Chile for Rome tomorrow after being detained for three weeks. Foreign Ministry sources said today.

Father Angelo Salvatore Ruzza and Father Giuseppe Morinetti, both Sardinians, were detained in the northern city of Copiapo on November 8 and accused of having sheltered left-wing guerrillas.

Briton and wife held by police in Buenos Aires

Buenos Aires, Nov 28.—Mr Richard Whitecross, a representative of British publishing houses, and his Argentine wife, Christine, were being questioned by security police, who arrested them at their flat here two days ago during an anti-subversion operation, informed sources said today.

The British Embassy here would not make an official statement, but diplomatic sources said a British consular official was allowed to visit Mr Whitecross at police headquarters last night.

Mr Whitecross, aged 33, from Braintree, Essex, has worked in Argentina for three years, representing the Oxford University Press and other British publishing houses, friends said. He first met his wife when she was a student at the University of Colchester.—Reuter.

Churches look to Women's Lib

From Our Correspondent Nairobi, Nov 28

Women from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, Asia and Australia told the World Council of Churches assembly today that the most urgent questions facing the world were the role of women in church and society.

In a forceful speech, Mrs Annie Jagge, a judge of the Ghana Appeals Court, advocated a "deliberate policy and a definite bias" in favour of higher education for women. Putting forward the argument that women's liberation could turn out to be the salvation of the world by lowering birth rates, she said statistics showed that wherever women had a life outside the home, the population growth dropped.

"But wherever women are illiterate and ignorant, house-bound and dependent on men, the growth rate increases, even with the best possible incentives for a decrease."

Mrs Prakash Nontavassio, principal of the Thailand Theological Seminary, said that the Thai proverb: "Men are the legs of the elephant and women are the back legs" showed the sort of situation women were in in her country.

At a press conference, Dr Una Carroll, a London physician and Church of England deaconess, caused laughter when she said that only God knew when there would be a woman Archbishop of Canterbury. But she

Renewed peace moves as 10 die in Lebanon

Beirut, Nov 28.—President Franjhi conferred today with M Maurice Couve de Murville, the French peace mediator, on the Lebanese situation, as the Lebanese Government which will discuss political reform.

As the civil war claimed at least another 10 lives, Mr Rashid Karami, the Prime Minister, saw the American ambassador, Mr McMurtrie Gabley, and a number of Lebanese politicians in an effort to resolve the crisis.

Meanwhile, clashes in Beirut's eastern suburbs claimed another six dead.

Fighting spread to Zahle, east of Beirut, where three people were killed and four wounded. Another person was killed in the southern district of Shiffat.

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Poll campaign called 'Australian bunfight'

From Michael Leapman Melbourne, Nov 28

At the close of the first formal week of campaigning in the Australian general election, the Liberal-Country coalition led by Mr Malcolm Fraser holds a distinct advantage over Mr Whitlam's Labour Party.

After yesterday's Gallup poll showing the Liberals with 51 per cent of the vote to Labour's 42, the Liberals were today favoured by unusually good fortune in the ballot for places on the voting slips in the Senate election.

In every state the Liberal candidates will be higher on the lists than their Labour rivals. This is important because, in a country where voting is compulsory, an estimated 5 per cent of the electorate know nothing of the parties or the issues. This so-called "donkey vote" invariably goes to the candidates whose names are highest on the lists.

Some small consolation for Labour is that, in another Gallup poll published today, 50 per cent of those polled said that they believed that General Kerr, the Governor-General, was wrong to dismiss Mr Whitlam as Prime Minister to precipitate the election. Only 46 per cent agreed with his action.

Yet there are signs that conservative opinion about the Governor-General's role are assuming gradually less importance in the election. Mr Fraser's opening campaign speech yesterday was devoted mainly to economic matters, promising a revival of business confidence. It was well received by the Australian newspapers, which mostly favour the Liberal-Country coalition.

Mr Fraser's speech also contained the compulsory measure of abuse of Mr Whitlam, which was quickly reciprocated by the former Labour Prime Minister. As a Labour Party worker put it to me: "This election started as a bit of an unusual one, but now it is getting to be the usual Australian bunfight."

This is shown in the advertisement placed by Labour in

today's newspapers, giving chapter and verse for the assertion that Mr Fraser is not to be trusted. And it is further manifested in one of the Labour campaign buttons, which says sharply: "Shame, Fraser, Shame. Whitlam, sham."

The Liberals are certainly showing more confidence than Labour. As a member of the Liberal national campaign headquarters in Melbourne, I was told that the Gallup poll findings came as no surprise, confirming the party's own statistics. All we have to guard against now is regarding it as a foregone conclusion.

Labour have none of this confidence. At their local press office, a volunteer helper said: "This party has been caught in a state of total disarray."

Yet even before the election was called the Liberals had booked a suite of offices in an expensive modern skyscraper for their headquarters. Labour sees this as proof of collusion between Mr Fraser and the Governor-General, but the Liberals say it was simply intelligent anticipation of at least a half-Senate election this month to resolve the deadlock over the Budget.

The Liberals have already prepared and recorded a campaign song, based on their peculiar slogan, "Turn on the lights." This is supposed to refer to the darkness of the past three years of Labour rule. "We have lost a lot of living, in the dark of these three years," the lyric says.

It would be a mistake, though, at this early stage, to write off Mr Whitlam's chance. He has in the past shown himself a resourceful campaigner. If he concludes that the constitutional issue is not all such a vote-getter, he is likely to switch his campaign theme to something more appealing. While the odds are now on Mr Fraser, there are still two weeks of hectic and divisive campaigning to go—during which anything could happen, and probably will.

Rhodesia Asians 'supporting' Nkomo faction

From Our Correspondent Salisbury, Nov 28

The African National Council faction (ANC) led by Bishop Abel Muzorewa, who has been accused of backing the rival faction led by Joshua Nkomo. The organizing secretary of the ANC, Mr Reuben Nyamwedda, said Rhodesia Asians have bought cars for Mr Nkomo and built him an expensive house in Bulawayo. They had decided to support him because he would settle for less than majority rule, Mr Nyamwedda claimed.

The president of the Southern Rhodesian Asian Organization, Mr Abdullah Kassim, said he did not want to comment on the allegation.

New NZ voters may sway result in today's election

From Our Correspondent Wellington, Nov 28

New Zealanders go to the polls tomorrow afternoon in the most divisive election campaign in more than 20 years. The Labour Party, with its majority of 23 in a single chamber Parliament of 87, ought to be able to hold off the challenge of the National Party, but Labour seems decidedly marginal, and the National Party is confident of success.

However, the impact at the polls of some 250,000 new voters—the 18-year-olds—makes prediction hazardous.

The personality clash between the leaders of the two principal parties, Mr Wallace Rowling, the Prime Minister, and Mr Robert Muldoon—has continued to dominate the campaign after one of the fiercest parliamentary sessions of recent years.

The two men are of quite distinctive styles and mien; Mr

Rowling is quiet and self-effacing, and at 48 already talks of leaving politics in six years, where Mr Muldoon is tough and energetic.

They are leading their parties into an election for the first time and each has been drawing huge support crowds throughout the country.

The personality clash has tended to obscure other issues. The differences which divide the parties mostly relate to emphasis rather than direction. Both are the used to reduce immigration, bring in a national superannuation scheme and provide better opportunities for women.

However, there have been sharp arguments over the long-established practice of compulsory universal conscription, which the National Party opposes, and sporting contacts, particularly with South Africa.

The National Party would not prevent a visit by the Springboks rugby team, the ruling Labour Party did two years ago.

Churches look to Women's Lib

forecast that there would be women priests in the Church of England within 10 years.

Generations of men had grown up with the feeling of superiority, Dr Kroll said. But scientific evidence indicated that all personality characteristics were human characteristics. "For instance, aggression and gentleness, intellect and intuition are human qualities expressed in different ways by both men and women."

Today's plenary session on "Women in a changing world" attracted wide interest and the emphasis placed on the need for change made a deep impression, delegates said.

The issue of violence to combat racism was raised again when the Rev Allan Shaw, a delegate from the Methodist Church of Britain, suggested that British Methodists fully support the World Council programme to combat racism.

In a letter in the Kenyan church newspaper, *Target*, he said the Bishop of Truro was not speaking for the whole of the British delegation when he said earlier this week that the church could not support violence as a solution to any situation.

"The Methodist Church of Great Britain has from the outset supported the programme to combat racism," he wrote. "It has decided that a situation had developed in which constitutional change by discussion and

consent was denied, and armed struggle was the necessary part of the total strategy to achieve justice. The Methodist Church recognizes that those who are fighting for liberation do so in love, and not in hate."

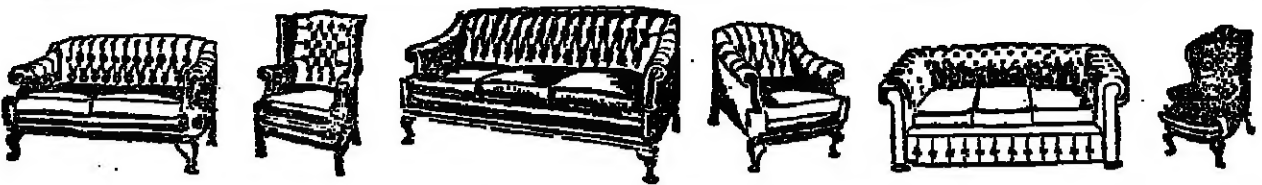
His views appeared to surprise some Methodist delegates, said Dr Kenneth Greig, Secretary of the Methodist Conference, "said it was incorrect to suggest that Methodists are from the outset supporters of the programme to combat racism—although he regarded it as a 'risk worth taking'."

The letter from two Russian Orthodox churchmen in Moscow, appealing for support for oppressed Christians in the Soviet Union, received by the assembly earlier this week, was criticized today by the Russian Orthodox and Russian Baptist delegates here.

Metropolitan Yuryan, chairman of the foreign affairs department of the Moscow Patriarchate, said Father Gleb Yakunin, one of the writers of the letter, had been in conflict with his church authorities for some time, while his co-author, Frater Lev Rogozhin, was "known for his anti-ecumenism."

While not denying that there had been problems in the church in the Soviet Union, he said that when exaggerated the provoked an "inadequate response" from western Christians which made the revolution of their internal church problems more difficult.

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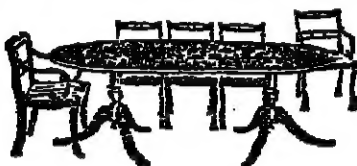


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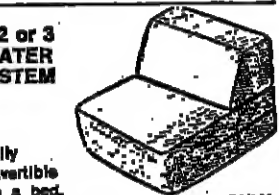
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THE TIMES SATURDAY REVIEW

Sir Laurence Grafftey-Smith's *The Locket*

was a runner-up in the

Ghost Story Competition which *The Times* ran with

Jonathan Cape earlier this year.

The *Locket* and twelve other stories have

been published this week

by Jonathan Cape in a collection,

The Times Anthology of Ghost Stories, price £2.95.

When old Madame de Pavillac died, her three daughters found themselves with some farmland, a hundred hectares of forest, and a chateau that had been the family home for nearly 500 years. There was no way of dividing the estate without selling the house, and nobody wanted to pay the price the sisters asked. Their agent suggested letting the chateau "to some rich Americans"; and it was to Pavillac, now named by my friends the Ogilvie, that I was invited for a summer holiday, after a more than usually exhausting season on Broadway.

I was looking forward to the visit. Donald Ogilvie and I were friends at Yale, and Anne was coming with me in a revival of *Some Town* when they first met. I cannot share Donald's enthusiasm for manoeuvring masses of marble into surrealist shapes; but he can afford his hobby, and it hurts no-one. I particularly wanted to see Penelope, my god-daughter, again, for I thought of her not only as an adorable child but also as a great artist in the making. Charles Lemesle, who had her at the piano since she was five, had told me that there was very little more he could teach her.

I drove down from the coast, stopping the night at Vendôme, and reached Pavillac next afternoon. Like so many villages in the Dordogne, it nestles on the slope of a hill; and the few primitive shops clustered round the smithy suggested no adequate congregation for the great church, whose Romanesque door and windows dominate the tiny Place Gambetta. I was instructed to keep straight on and take an avenue on the left, round the curve of the hill. This avenue mounted, twisting and turning through the woods, for about a mile, before bringing me to the chateau; and I had to cross a genuine water-filled moat by a no less authentic drawbridge to reach the gravel sweep in front of the house. I had a confused impression of towers, and of a long mulioned facade in the golden stone of the region, before Donald and Anne came running to bid me welcome.

They were both in great form. Anne was looking better than I had seen her for years, and Donald was full of plans for putting a north light into an enormous barn and using it as a studio. When Anne had told me all about the walled kitchen-garden, and the unexpectedly efficient plumbing, and the family retainers, I asked where my god-daughter was.

"I hope the chateau runs to a harpsichord or something for her," I said.

"Oh! I thought Donald had told you about Penny," said Anne, suddenly serious.

"I thought Anne had written to you," said Donald.

"Why? Is anything wrong?"

"Nothing's really wrong," Donald was very emphatic. "But she was taking too much out of herself and has to have a rest."

"It was Lemesle who noticed it first," Anne explained. "He told us that Penny's music was burning her up. That's how he put it. She always was completely what the word is—absorbed. You remember that week in Stockholm. But lately it got so that she couldn't bear to do anything else. And I found she wasn't sleeping properly. You haven't seen her for some time, David. Technically, and artistically, she's developed in the most remarkable way."

"Composition, believe it or not," said Donald, interrupting. "Extraordinary stuff. Completely mature. Lemesle says..."

Lemesle says it frightens him," said Anne. "It's miles away from her and experience. She's only 14, after all. We felt we had to have an opinion, of course, and the specialist seemed to understand at once. He insisted on Penny having at least six months away from all music just running wild. He said it might even have to be two years. There's not a piano in the house. Not even a wireless set, or a record-player."

"We were sitting in the great drawing-room, looking out over the poplar-green valley of the Dordogne. The light seemed suddenly to have dimmed in the sky."

"How's she taking all this?" I asked anxiously. The thought of Penny condemned to live in a world without music was a tragic one.

"She couldn't be sweeter or more reasonable," Donald assured me. "Lemesle handled her beautifully. He told her that a longish pause now would be the very best thing, not only for her but for her music. He advised her to go away and fill herself to the brim with sunshine and pine-woods and goat-cheese and fairy stories and Montbazillac—that's our local wine, rather good. He saw my ridged eyebrows and added, 'One glass with each meal!'"

"Anyway," said Anne, "she's a different girl already."

"You asked where she was," continued Donald. "Ten to one you'll find her down by the swimming-pool, in the woods. She bathes and sunbathes every day, and looks pretty good on it."

"I'll go and find her," I said, getting up. "I have a little present for her."

But at that moment, Penny came running into the room. As soon as she saw me, she jumped into my arms. I was kissed on the nose, the mouth and both ears.



Illustration by Michael Trevithick

"Lovely! Lovely!" she kept saying. "Oh, Uncle David! It's really and truly lovely to see you again. How long can you stay?"

I told her that I had no job until they began filming *Nightshade* in October, and that I was there until her Papa threw me out. Then I took a small tissue-paper parcel from my pocket.

"Here!" I said. "Something to remind you that you're almost an old lady now."

It was only a little necklace of seed-pearls, but I had fallen for it at sight. Penny loved it. It was early Eighteenth Century French work, and it carried a gold and enamel locket, containing a curl of faded yellow hair. Penny went straight to the mirror and put it on, admiring herself unashamedly.

I watched her. I was not happy at what I saw. She was, indeed, a different girl from the Penelope I had seen two years before. She had grown, of course, and gracefully. Her bright corn hair, worn in two long plaits, was already darker than the spun gold I remembered, in spite of the bleach of the sun. It was her eyes that worried me: slate-blue and dark-lashed, they looked too big for her face. I didn't know whether this was a symptom of too much music or too little; but they were the eyes of a woman, of an unhappy woman; they were not the eyes of a fourteen-year-old girl.

"Has this locket got a story?" she asked, "or must we make one up ourselves?"

"I only know that that's the de Pavillac crest on the back of it," I answered. "I found

that out in the shop in London. It was too much of a coincidence altogether: I just had to get it for you. You can make up any story you like about the lady who first wore it, but you can be pretty sure she wore it here, in Pavillac."

She studied the little thing carefully.

"Here's a sort of dragon with a crown," she said. "We've got him all over the place in the house here. And what does this stand for?"

"The lady's initial, I suppose. V for Valentine; V for Vénus; V for whatever it was."

"You realize, I hope," she said solemnly, "that it's the nicest present I've ever had? Now I must go and show it to everybody." She ran from the room.

Except at dinner-time, I didn't see much of Penny for the next few days. She spent her time somewhere down in the woods, while Anne or Donald in turn or both of them, launched me on "the society or took me to the sights of the neighbourhood. Every day brought new delight. Donald had a passion for the Périgord castles: Biron, Beynac and Bonaguil; he peopled them with troubadours and joustings. Anne and I preferred the rivers, those dreaming Dordogne rivers, moving somnambulant through the poplar-trees. But I had to plead for a rest from tourist activity and from the gargantuan luncheons of the local squires.

So it must have been a week or 10 days before I explored Penny's neck of the woods. It was late afternoon. Anne showed me the general line of

my way from the dining-room window, and as I followed path after path rustling with dry leaves, down cathedral-basins of beech and oak, I found myself resenting the outrage of a modern swimming-pool in this green peace. I need not have worried. I turned my last corner and came to a clearing in the forest, where huge trees stood in a circle round a rust-fringed lake. The air became suddenly very still, and I had a strange feeling that I was intruding, as if I were interrupting something. I could see no path continuing into the woods beyond the lake. The world came to an end there.

Penny, naked as a goldfish, was lying on the grass, her arms outflung behind her head, smiling at the sun. She had not heard me coming. I didn't want to embarrass her, so I stepped quietly back into the wood and came out again, whistling. She made a swoop for a towel, and fixed it before she looked up to see who it was.

"Well, Uncle David!" she cried, "at last you've come! And high time, too!" She put on the towel hospitably. I sat down by her side.

"This towel was in case you were the gardener," she said fit to explain.

"Good idea, keep it on!" I said hastily. "Oughtn't you to be wearing sun-glasses?"

"The sun never bothers me!" she replied.

If one could forget those eyes, she certainly was the picture of health. She was toasted all over to a warm apricot russet. Her strong young hands and that little ripple of muscle between her shoulders were part of her pianist's equip-

ment. But her eyes were now shadowed with dark lines, lines which had not been there when I came to Pavillac. The contrast of the young face and those fever-bright eyes was the more shocking because Penny seemed to be entirely happy and carefree, laughing and chattering like any school-girl of her age.

"Daddy's just crazy about his old barn, isn't he?" she was saying. "It's because it has big double doors going right up to the roof. Did he tell you he's planning to sculpt something really monumental, a group of Druids? We have a dolmen here, you know. But no one knows what Daddy's Druids will look like when he's finished with them!"

"Penelope Ogilvie!" I said, "that's an unflattering remark."

She was silent for a moment, and I felt again how abnormally still everything seemed. There was no singing of birds; there was no whisper of leaves in the trees. The sun beat down, unveiled by any cloud, and the sky lay molten blue in the mirror of the lake. Even the reeds were motionless. Heat and light were both so pure and so intense they ceased to be familiar experiences; they became symbols of some elemental phenomenon. And a ringing impression of expectancy in the silence was insistent.

"I hate to go," said Penny, "but I think perhaps we ought to get back to the house. Isn't it about time for tea or a drink or something? The sun will soon be gone behind those trees."

She slipped on a bright scarlet bathrobe and began collecting her odds and ends, wrapping

knitting-needles and some light-blue wool carefully in a silk scarf.

"Something very, very secret, for Mum's birthday," she explained, smiling. "She mustn't see it yet." Then the smile died from her face, which blurred and suddenly became a mask.

"There's quite a lot that that unpleasant bitch must not see, besides my knitting!" she said. "Because now I know a lot of things—such a lot of things..." Her voice had become deeper, siller. She laughed, but it was a stupid, evil giggle of complicity.

"Penny!" I cried, "Penny!"

She looked up at me, blinking. The mask wavered and broke, like sunlight in water. Youth and innocence flowed back into her face.

"You're looking very serious all of a sudden!" she said. "I'll race you through the wood. Bet you I get to the house first!" She was off into the trees like a startled drey.

I could not follow her until I had sat down for a moment on the flower-spangled turf. The trees and the lake and all the air around me throbbed in the burning silence. Once more I had the feeling that here the world came to an end.

I said nothing to the Ogilvies. I did not know what to say. I wanted time to think things over.

Penny was completely and charmingly herself all the evening. She duly trumped her partner's ace—an old habit of hers—when we played Family Bridge before her very early bedtime. I began to wonder whether I had had some sort of hallucination, and I slept

badly. It was while I was looking out at the moonlit garden behind the chateau around four in the morning, wishing I had brought some sleeping pills, that I saw a little figure slipping from shadow to shadow between the trees and the lawn, back to the shelter of the house. I could not swear it was Penny, but I knew it could be no one else.

I was having my coffee and hroches in bed when she came into my room next morning. She was wearing the scarlet bathrobe, but she shook it off as she reached out and stole one of my hroches. I was relieved to observe a notional but adequate bikini.

"What do you think this is, Uncle David?" she asked, nibbling daintily. She leaned forward to show me her left shoulder. I saw a thick slug-shaped red mark, an inch long, and it was on, rather than in, the sunburnt skin; it looked like some sort of incrustation.

"I woke up with it," she explained. "Daddy thinks I must have got stung yesterday, but they don't have poison-ivy in France, do they? And it looks much too big for an insect-bite. I know it wasn't there when I had my bath last night."

I remembered a stealthy return to the house, shortly before dawn.

"Does it hurt much?" I asked.

"It sort of tingles," she said. "You couldn't call it really painful. And, anyway, I think it's getting better fast."

"I'll kiss it and make it all well," I said lightly, bending my face to her shoulder. Then I started back as if I had been stung myself. They say that

The locket

by

Sir Laurence
Grafftey-Smith

memories of smells are of all the most evocative. I was standing back at the chateau, branding on my grandfather's Penny's shoulder was the scar of a deep and very recent burn. And it was fading before my eyes.

"I wouldn't worry about it if it were not," I said with some difficulty. "It seems to be going away. Are you off in the pool already? Is there any sun there now?"

"It's a real sun-trap. All day long. Perhaps that's why the Druids had their dolmen there."

"Oh!" I said. "Is that where it is?"

"In the trees, on the other side of the pool, it's not much to look at really. Just some old stones and a little underground room. Are you coming down with me?" She put on her robe again.

For reasons of my own I wanted to go very much, and I was going to tell her so, but I decided to stay away. I said I had letters to write and would come and fetch her for lunch. I was thinking hard. As she turned to the door, I made up my mind.

"Tell me, Penny darling," I said, and my own voice sounded strange to me, "what do you like best about Pavillac? What do you like best of all? Your mother says—I repeated the words slowly, "your mother says—your mother says—I waited."

It worked. It happened again. It was horrible.

Her face blurred, like wax melting, and seemed to reshape itself into an expression of vicious cunning. Her pigtail were swinging over her scarlet bathrobe. She caught them and tugged them, and then she began unfastening them.

"What I most love is learning about things," she said, in that new, oily voice. "It's wonderful. Quite different from my music I think you know what I mean. Uncle David, I can guess that. But you can only know a little; my friend knows everything. I've only known him for one little week and it seems like a hundred days." She paused. "Like a hundred and twenty days," she said, looking at me as if she was saying something important; "a hundred and twenty days. But if you say a word about it to that human sow you mentioned just now, I'll ask my friend to hurt you. Or to tell me how I can hurt you."

"I heard myself shouting: 'Penny, come back! Penny! For Christ's sake, come back!'"

Her face changed as I watched her, and she was suddenly Penny again, laughing in surprise to find her pigtails were half-loosened.

"Till lunch-time, then!" she said. "And don't dare be late!" She blew me a kiss and was gone.

I dressed quickly and found my way to the big barn, where Donald was busy discussing with the blacksmith details of the new glazing in the roof. I asked him to get Anne to come downstairs at once. A few minutes later we were all sitting on the terrace, round a flimsy wicker table under a gaudy beach-umbrella, and I was trying to tell them about Penny.

It wasn't easy. They looked at each other, puzzled, and then they looked at me as if I were out of my mind. They didn't seem to understand a word I said. I may well have been a little incoherent; I was very frightened.

At last Donald realized that I was desperately serious. He ground his cigarette out distastefully.

"Are you telling us," he said, "that Penny spends her time at the pool splashing with some village Don Juan? If so, I don't believe a word of it; but we can easily find out. I can see you're worried, David. I'm quite sure you're absolutely wrong!"

"That isn't what I've been trying to tell you at all," I said impatiently.

"But I thought you said..." Anne began.

"Tell me all about Pavillac," I said, interrupting her. "Is that dolmen authentic?"

"It's listed as a monument historique; that's all I know."

"Is it, perhaps, on the site of some earlier temple?" I asked.

"That seems most unlikely," he replied. "There was a temple of Venus somewhere near here, I believe; there are Gallo-Roman remains all over the Dordogne. But all that would be rather later than the Druids, not earlier. Their dolmen may, of course, have been used for worship, in Roman times. What's the idea?"

"Just that I don't think Penny's new friend is a local character," I said. "Or a summer visitor, for the matter. And I'm sure that what's going on is something much worse than a girl's flirtation. That's why I must know about Pavillac, whether it has any special history, legends, anything I want to know."

"Influences—if that's the right word—what influences may exist near that pool or in the corner of the woods?"

"Oh, my God!" cried Anne and began biting her knuckles. "L'Estropie!"

I looked at her, puzzled.

"What Anne has just remembered," Donald explained, "is that man called Gilles de Pavillac lived here in the early 1700s: a Haysmanic character. He murdered his wife, very horribly. And he had a habit of stealing children for him to torture and use, boys and girls."

Continued on opposite page


سكوتيا لال

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Devout vespers

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SHURE

bourgeois Philharmonic is also accomplished band. Alain Urbard, their regular conductor who also directs them the much improved Opéra de Rhin, here makes out a good case for Faure's neglected *Idées et Méditations*, different in some ways as appears Debussy, who is himself resurrected here by the *L'Après-midi d'un faune* prelude, overture played. Karel's Pavane Rousset's Stravinsky-impregnated *Bacchus et Ariane*, second suite, complete an interesting and attractive disc. Becham was, of course, a welcome advocate of French music. The album of his earlier brings back famous performances of overtures, *Harold Italique* (with Primrose as untripped soloist) and *The Tempest*. The old (1930s) recordings are dim, not so the interpretations. The sound on the *Idées et Lalo renaissance* is fully up to modern standards, and Becham with both works with the dedication he brought to special courtesies of each. These are monophonic classics, and it is a pity to have them available only on tape, especially at the modest asking price.

A new *Ballo* then has to sell itself. EMI, I fancy, will not have too much difficulty with their recording out at the moment, but the next month will be the most satisfactory account of the opera coming on the market and it has a super-conductor in Riccardo Muti, an understated, instinctively theatrical director, and a superb gloom, passion and mockery which makes *Ballo* so difficult to bring off in the theatre. There is from the start a Solitresque sense of drama as the mummings of the courtiers are suddenly replaced by the *aria* of *Le Conte* ("The Count repeats the chirpy, dapper page sang for RCA some years back). Muti is able to move effortlessly from the Rossini-style patter ensemble, which ends this opening scene, to the *aria* of the passionate *duo* between Riccardo and Amelia. He flicks away the horror as Ulrica's prophesies of imminent death as Riccardo launches into "E scherzo o è follia". It is the remarkable piece of conducting and the new production, by Covent Garden's Chorus, Placido Domingo and Pierluigi Pappacalli, who starred in *Ballo* a few Christmases back, which Franco Zeffirelli made so successful. The *aria* of Renato as indeed they were at Covent Garden earlier this year. The Scala staging had its critics although I certainly was not among them, but there was general approval for the two new *Anders* and *Anders* here on record. Domingo's performance is passionate and forthright; it would be difficult to imagine him singing in the Swedish setting of the opera, he is always the philandering



Governor of Boston after the homosexual Gustavus III. "Mig. au fond" in the first act is a model of involved singing. Cappuccilli never seems to take a breath in this opera. "Alta vita ch'arride" is there without a join and full of concern.

Marcina Araya is poor. American boys will always be on the losing side, has not got the excitement of Price, or indeed of Birgit Nilsson who used to cherish this role. But the old evenness and warmth of tone has now returned to the voice.

Florence Costa is above her Urlic in the business at the moment. What other contralto can dominate the fortune-telling scene as she does here? The only black mark I can find to place against this new production is a probably poor translation booklet with its uncredited translations.

"Eri tu" is sung by Sherrill Milnes in a most impressive recital *dieu* out this month. This is not the moment to go into the rival merits of Milnes and Cappuccilli; suffice it to say that they are the two leading Verdi baritones of the day. Wurm (*Linda Miller*) and Macbeth, a role Cappuccilli sings at the Scala next month and Milnes in London next season, complete side one on an excellent style. He includes Macbeth's aria: before death, which is usually in performance. On the other Macbeth moves into fairly unfamiliar territory with an account of Scindia's "Aux troupes du Sultan" (*Le Roi de Lahore*), which makes one wish the world would miss Massenet on stage early VIII. "Quid doco, commande" from Saint-Saëns opera of the same name is equally rare. Another French view of an English king, Grétry's *Richard*. *Coeur de Lion*, though was probably best known to the earl at the castle of Dunstun.

Anyone looking for a connoisseur's Christmas present; could do much worse than buy EMI remastered *Falstaff*, for which the stereo balance engineer, Christopher Parker, must take much of the credit. This is a classic set with some performances which have not been bettered on record: Gobbi's plump and resilient accounts of the title role, Panerai's aggressive Ford, Schwarzkopf and Babieri chuckling and conspiring as Alice and Quickly. Also deliciously fresh Fenton. Herbert von Karajan, Walter Legge and the Philharmonia can look back on this recording with the greatest of pleasure.

John Higgins

Wagner, The Ringgold. English National Opera singers and orch/Goodall. HMV SLS 5032, 4 records, £8.95.

One might regard the new *Requiem* as an offering to the next year's centenary of the Ring. The new Phillips recording of Michael Tippett's cantata *A Child of our Time* is surely intended to commemorate its composer's recent 70th birthday. This consummate, contemporary, or public theme but sparked off by just-pre-war newspaper stories suggested in 1944 that the very heart of Handel's *Messiah*, supposedly dead and rotten, was contrarily wise alive and kicking. A

Liszt: Piano Works. Kempff.
DG 2530 560. £3.25.

Chopin and Liszt: Piano Works.
As. RCA ARL1-1030. £2.99.

Nielsen: Piano Music Complete.
McCabe. Decca SDD 475 and
SDD 476. £199 each.

Scriabin: Piano Sonata Nos 3,
5 and 8. Ashkenazy. Decca
SXL 6705. £3.25.

Chopin: 24 Preludes; Berensse.
Larroche. Decca SXL 6733.
£3.25.

Prokofiev: Piano Sonatas Nos
25, 26 and 27. Gilels. DG 2530
and 2589. £3.25.



On Tuesday Wilhelm Kempff
was 80. In celebration
of his birthday, Gramophone has not
yet released a new recording.

Bridge, like human society, evolves through the acceptance and rejection of conventions. It has reached the stage in its

development when some of the artificialities must be thrown on the dustheap, and a good beginning might be made with the following, which is unconditioned. It is a superfluous adjunct to approach bidding, because the hand for which it especially caters is dealt about once a year.

To put the convention in a nutshell, you jump to Five No Trumps as soon as the trumps are agreed, and the partner who has that partner with one of the three to honours in the trump suit bids a small slam or with two of a three top honours raises immediately to a grand slam. The responses differ from those in the Blackwood convention through the absence of a preliminary Four No Trumps asking for trumps, in suit in which the hand is to be played can be agreed inferentially in the absence of opposition; e.g., North, One spade—South, Three Diamonds—North, Five No Trumps. North is asking whether his partner has the ♠A, ♠K, ♠Q or ♠K; if South has any of these three combinations he responds 3♥, 3♦, 3♣ or 3♠ in Diamonds; otherwise 3♥, 3♦, 3♣ or 3♠ in Diamonds.

The essential feature to bear in mind if you have chosen this short route to the grand slam is that you must not show trumps until you have shown controls on the way. Otherwise you will be in a very awkward position.

If such eminent players can arrive at a grand slam, after a Five No Trumps demand, which is a mere 13 per cent chance, what prospect of success with the convention have lesser performers? I brought up again this much-discussed contract, because so many partners forget that this particular grand slam force can only prove indispensable when there have been no more than two rounds of bidding.

An example from a robber will demonstrate its superfluity.

♠ A K Q 10 ♣ A Q J 5 3 2
 ♠ K Q 3 ♣ A 3
 ♠ J 8 6 5 2 ♣ 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♠ 7 6 5 4 3 2 ♣ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

♠ 7 ♣ 5 5 4 3 2
 ♠ K 9 7 4 ♠ N
 ♠ K 9 6 4 2 ♠ W
 ♠ 8 7 ♠ E
 ♠ 6 5 5 2 ♠ 10 4 3
 ♠ 4 3 2 ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2
 ♠ A K 10 ♠ 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2

East South West North
 No 1 Club ♠ 2 Spades
 No 2 Diamonds ♠ 3 Hearts
 No 3 Clubs ♠ 4 No trumps
 No 4 Diamonds ♠ 5 No

where partners know each other's methods and have agreed beforehand that they are playing "Old-fashioned Sol." No score; dealer East. The auction began a standard course with clubs and the trump suit and controls in diamonds and hearts shown in turn. South's bid of Five Clubs indicated that he had little interest in a slam, but his partner was not to be deceived and had one more trick than he had announced and he should have been satisfied to make a further effort by bidding Five Spades or Six Clubs. However, he modelled his bidding on the world champions playing third and he would have bid Five Spades or Trumps, thus leaving his partner to respond Seven Clubs. He had full value for his bidding including the ♠ A K. West made the safe lead of a trump and declarer could see only 12 possible tricks without a finesse. He cut the Gordian knot by not taking an unnecessary finesse against the ♠ K. When he fails to lose no more because he could ruff a diamond. The precarious contract can be made if declarer avoids the diamond finesse. He draws trumps, discards hearts on rades, re-enters his hand with the ♣ A and cashes his last two trumps. Dummy retains the ♣ A Q 3 (the ♠ 8 and ♠ 8 having been thrown) and West is squeezed because he cannot over hearts and keep his ♠ K.

Edward Mayer

Deutsche Grammophon has not only reissued past performances of Beethoven, Schubert and Schumann in bargain boxes but also invited him to record a brand new recital. Listen to:

How pleasant, then, to hail him as the triumph of the spirit over the overroads of time. Mr Kempff plays with the glowing serenity of a St Francis walking the waters, the saint who in fact shares most of the second side of the disc with the birds. Apart from a trace of unclear pedaling (difficult to avoid in the rolling sea) both these *Legendes* are as inspiring in sound as in vibration. The rest of the recital belongs to the Italian book (*Evangelio II*) and the *Stabat Mater*, except that instead of trying to storm high heaven (as the gates of hell) in the Dante sonata (No. 7) Mr Kempff wisely substitutes the charming little "Condoliera" from *Venezia e Napoli*. With a list in uncommonly introverted mood in most of these Italian pieces, Mr Kempff is neither strained; his playing neither lacks structure, nor intensity. His simplicity sincerity deepens respect for the music itself.

After the oldest, the youngest, which is to say the 26-year-old Polish born Emanuel Ax, winner of the first Rubinstein Competition in Israel last year. List to his debut on disc, too, though in the guise of transcriber and dazzer. Odd as it is that

should prefer transcriptions of Schubert songs to original piano music. The latter attitude justifies the choice, while in the A minor Paganini under his controlled virtuosity, rather with strong characteristics, merita the objection. The first movement is nevertheless Chopin's minor sonata. This emerges through enough stability, poise and flowness to suggest uncommon maturity.

Attention must also be directed to the two discs of Nielsen's piano music complete: previously only the *Concerto* was available. Unfortunately the composer himself was a violinist, not a pianist. Only very occasionally, as in the brilliant, Mussorgsky-like and brilliant *Opus 42*, does he really enjoy the keyboard's endless variety of texture and color. As with Hindemith, it is the thought itself and its eloquence that mattered to him, the challenge of throwing new light on the familiar through unfamiliar contexts. Hearing to the two records tonight, off, as a reviewer must not recommend a *recording* of Nielsen's *Op. 5*, fully justifies my claim ever made for it in living flagging interest. Nielsen's last keyboard offerings of importance, the Three Pieces 1899, of some ten years later, also stimulating in their total unpredictability, while for light of these are the early, charming Grieg-like miniatures of 1883 and *Op. 11*. Dutifully includ-

tinct. Atmospheric evocation
 the 24 Preludes is vivid,
 ough now and again point-
 ealing might be thought ob-
 erved as presaged by those
 avily accented second beats
 the first piece. But whatever
 pianist does is done with
 ough aristocracy of style to
 encourage acceptance. The
 exercise she plays with
 rhythmically yielding tender-
 ness.
 Next, working backwards in
 time, to Beethoven. Grieg plays
 the three sonatas immediately
 preceding the last great third
 movement, thus stimulating
 receding and sturdy vitality at
 once echt Deutsch and wholly
 ethovenian. Perhaps he reads
 over into the innocent Andante
 Op. 79 than the context
 warrants. Bar never mind.
 However for a moment does he
 stray from his composer's
 authentic wave-length.
 Lastly Mozart, his C minor
 Fantasy, K. 475, and Sonata,
 457, from Arrau, who shows
 w inevitably the one succeeds
 the other even if perhaps
 repeating the drama by making
 the repeat too many in the
 first movement of the sonata.
 Always he imposes his own
 world and style on the
 music: for some tastes it might
 be insufficiently spring-like
 and buoyant. Yet
 the whiff of the music's ex-
 cessive intensity escapes him,
 here or in the D minor
 Fantasy, K. 397, and Rondo
 511.

Joan Chissell

The 13 runners in the Democratic stakes

There is clearly going to be a battle over the choice of candidates for the Democratic presidential nomination next July. The first positions were taken in Kentucky last week-end.

Washington
The Democrats who gathered last weekend beside the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky, hoped to discuss the broad issues of American politics. All anyone talked about however was one issue, busing, and the chances of the candidates for the Democratic nomination.

The star of the show was Senator George McGovern, who led the party to defeat in 1972, and who is perfectly ready to do so again. He made a fine and idealistic speech to wind up the convention in which he said the America must go down the road of integration in a bus, and that he would oppose any candidate who did not agree with him.

He admitted hoping that if the party convention next July failed to find another candidate, it would turn to him. He said that if no other candidate seemed to him to be "facing the issues" he might even enter some of the late primaries.

It would add to the delights of what is clearly going to be an exciting election. There were several official candidates in Louisville.

Senator Humphrey was the most talked-about of the absentees. He easily won a very unscientific poll of people attending the convention. It was done several times a day on a computer and the only time anyone got near Mr Humphrey in mechanical popularity was when Senator Bayh's supporters came over by the busload from his native Indiana across the river.

There was a series of panel discussions in which the candidates did their stuff before a very expert and critical audience. Senator Humphrey was surely missing on the economic panel, where the inadequacies of the panelists (Senator Lloyd Bentsen and Representative Morris Udall) illustrated his abilities, even in absence.

The fair and order panel was about busing, and this was the one issue that had a thorough airing. Mr Jimmy Carter, former Governor of Georgia, claimed that busing is a means of integration of last resort, and that in Atlanta, when he was Governor, alternatives had been found.

The other candidates, including Senator Jackson, waffled. But not Mr McGovern. The latter is the party's chief right-wing candidate (leaving aside Mr George Wallace) and he said that he plans to introduce legislation to put limits on busing.

Mr McGovern announced firmly that any candidate to the presidency who did anything of the sort, was either promising that he knew could never be delivered, or else was proposing to violate the President's oath of office.

The party does not relish the battle thus promised. The convention was more enthusiastic about Senator McGovern than about any of the others, but the cheers were a gesture of affection and nostalgia, like the cheers that greeted Mr Heath at the Tory Party conference.

The two thousand liberal Democrats in Louisville, who represent a very large and important section of the party, have no intention whatever of sacrificing themselves once again to Mr McGovern's idealism.

Mr Jackson's performance was disappointing. He was on the defensive in Louisville and reacted badly to unkind questioning. Mr Sargent Shriver, one of the many unscrupulous candidates, succeeded in throwing him completely off balance by starting a debate with him on the Helsinki agreements.

The electoral game in America is played by making snap judgements early on and the 13 Democrats now in the running, with nine months to go before the convention, look something like this.

Senator Birch Bayh (Indiana): able, strong liberal support; not impressive. Senator Lloyd Bentsen (Texas): no longer thinks he has a hope of winning anything anywhere. Mr Jimmy Carter (former Governor of Georgia): currently the front runner; right-wing night star; a bandwagon. Senator Frank Church (Idaho): not yet declared, hopes that his committee on the CIA will let his candidacy off the ground. It will not. Mr Fred Harris (former senator from Oklahoma): going the populist route and will pick up a lot of votes on the way without getting anywhere.

Senator Hubert Humphrey (Minnesota): the front runner without running. Senator Jerry Jackson: right-wing candidate; has damaged his chances; very able, very boring. Senator George McGovern: 12 Senator George McGovern: President Ford could beat him.

Mr Terry Sanford (former Governor of North Carolina): a one has heard from him recently. Mr Milton Shapp (Governor of Pennsylvania): ought to be running for the Presidency. Mr Sargent Shriver (former ambassador to Kennedy brother in law): youthful 60-year-old with no chance of winning. Mr Morris Udall (Congressman from Arizona): once a liberal under-bearer, has been running on the spot for a year now. George Wallace (Governor of Alabama): the party wishes would go away, but he will.

Patrick Brogan

A rising young star drives off with a cash handicap

Sportsworld

On an average summer's morning, Suzanne Cadden, nominated this week as Woman Golfer of the Year, left the house at 10 o'clock and returns home at 8 o'clock that evening.

From the odd prize voucher she earns nothing—yet her annual expenses range between £700 and £800. A dark and lovely 18-year-old, Miss Cadden, who left school with a string of examination successes, is a top amateur. She hates to see her parents straining themselves financially on her behalf.

"I'm sure they would take better holidays if it weren't for me," but they, naturally, are keen that their daughter should make the most of her talent and that she should not miss out on the opportunity of playing representative golf all over the world.

Had she grown up in the United States, Miss Cadden would, no doubt, now be competing on their women's professional tour—a circuit from which Joanne Carner last season gleaned nearly £50,000.

In Britain, however, there are no such prospects for the aspiring woman golfer. Though the Colgate tournament at Sunningdale is now an annual feature and Louis Newmark are offering prize-money to professionals in their stroke-play event, almost all of the women's tournaments held here are run solely for amateurs. Thus, anyone hoping to make money out of golf has really no option but to head for the United States.

Nevertheless, such a thought has scarcely crossed Miss Cadden's mind, for she loves home and is, in any case, engaged to be married to John McMahon, a former Scottish youth international who is now an assistant professional. "The ideal situation," said Miss Cadden, "would be for women's golf like tennis to go open. If all the tournaments here accepted amateurs as well as professionals I am sure that I—and others like me—would turn professional at once. It's fun to do well and get good results, but it would be just much more satisfying if you could help to pay your own way."

Miss Cadden was eight when she first followed her parents out on to the golf course at Cardross. At the age of 10, she had a full Ladies Golf Union handicap of 27. At 13, she was down to five—and today she plays off plus 2, a handicap at which both she and her older sister, Gladys, arrived within a couple of weeks of each other this past summer. Their brother, Sam, incidentally, has a handicap of 2; father, a dentist for whom Suzanne works as a part-time receptionist in the winter months, also has a low handicap.

Winner of the world junior title in San Diego at 15, Miss Cadden, who represents her school at both hockey and athletics, this year won the British girls' championship, besides being runner-up in both the British women's match-play and stroke-play championships. When she competes alongside the world's leading women's

professionals in the Colgate in August, she finished 18th—an achievement which has been a professional, would have won her some £400.

What she particularly admired about the tournament's rough contenders from the American tour was the way in which, when they were in trouble, they would concentrate on not dropping more than one stroke. "They never seemed to be prepared to take risks to make a par."

Elliot Rowan, the professional with whom Belle Robertson worked towards the end of her reign in Scottish women's golf, has taught Miss Cadden. "Elliot," she explained, "has helped me to understand my own swing without, at any time, making me feel confused." She will tell you, too, how much

she has learnt from Mrs Robertson in their games together. "Belle often talks of the experience she had in championship golf. She has passed on a lot to me about the psychology of the game."

Still technically a junior, she will be able to defend her title in the British girls' championship next year. Miss Cadden was relieved at the way in which she was accepted by the more experienced members of the British team when she played in the Vagliano Trophy match against the Continent of Europe at Muirfield this September. Indeed, Julia Green-

haigh, whom she has succeeded as Woman Golfer of the Year, is one of her greatest admirers. "Suzanne is a great find," said Mrs Robertson. "Bridget she has real flair."

It is at county and club level that this softly-spoken girl has sensed respect towards her success. Almost unbelievably, she was this year played no higher than three in the Dumfriesshire County team in either the singles or foursomes.

Of playing at Troon, a useful player but one who has still to represent her country, was always played top, with Miss Cadden's sister filling the second position. Not, of course, that Miss Cadden bears any personal grudge towards the girls themselves. Miss McAllister is often to be seen pulling Suzanne's trolley in the championships; the two sisters are very close, having been constant companions on the tour until Gladys embarked on her training as a computer scientist.

In the realm of club golf, Miss Cadden believes, rightly or wrongly, that she has only to turn down an invitation to play in the club team and there is talk, among some members, of how she thinks she is too good for them. She insists, though, that the women at Troon Portland, a club she joined just over a year ago, are quite a different. "They seem to understand golfers there. They are really pleased if you can turn out to play for them—and if you can't, they don't mind a bit."

One of the reasons she became a member at Troon Portland was because she resented restrictions on juniors and women members at Cardross over times of play. This, of course, is exactly the kind of thing the Dunfermline College of Physical Education will presumably want to investigate when they begin their much-publicized research programme aimed at finding out why Scottish women do not play a fuller role in the country's sporting activities.

All summer, Miss Cadden, who has been selected to play in the 1976 Curtis Cup match against the Americans, did two hours' motorcycling a day in order to be able to practise at Troon. Her hair is lively, full of punch—and her first move, at the start of a day's workout, is to stand on the practice tee and let fly about 150 long shots. She has always been a long hitter and, with the exception of Mary McKenna, of Ireland, arguably knocks a ball further than anyone else in present-day British women's golf.

After the long shots she moves on to what she considers to be a most difficult part of the game—namely, the shorter irons. "I miss far more greens than I should with my seven and eight irons."

Her next port of call is the putting green. Recently, she has been having trouble with her putting—something Miss Jackson put down to tiredness at the end of a long season. "She now has the putter her brother used as a Scottish boy international and is feeling much more confident."

World junior champion at 15, the British woman golfer at 18, Miss Cadden, in the afternoon of a typical practice day, will set out for 18 holes before heading home for a meal. And then, at 10, on a two-mile run and 10 to 15 press-ups in the Gary Player fashion. "Mind you," she adds, as if a little guilty at such sloth, "I'll be stepping all this up for the Curtis Cup."

Lewine Mair

Greek artists star in a theatre of the absurd

The Greek Month in London, which has been going on at a brisk pace since the beginning of November, was a simple and even an unoriginal idea. It was organized by the Institute of Contemporary Arts, and paid for mostly by private subscription. There had already been a French month and a German month. The aim is so to concentrate a number of exhibitions, lectures, concerts and films that the achievement and self-expression of a given people—particularly in modern art—is available at one time, and we may hope to get some detail and some deep sense of it.

In the case of Greece the obvious reason for this to happen now is that the cultural life of the country was badly mangled by the Colonels, and there are plenty of people in and around London who cherish Greek freedom and who are most anxious now for this kind of opportunity. They are in fact flocking through the exhibitions; there has been standing room only at lectures, and at least one of the concerts was sold out in advance.

But in Athens there has been trouble. It seems to have started with painters not chosen by the ICA for a London exhibition; it was taken up by a newspaper, and the argument rapidly got out of hand. Indeed it came close, as a Greek Cabinet Minister remarked, to the whole of the absurd. The British, paternal and colonialist as their habit is, were going to cripple the young culture of the restored democracy by presenting it selectively in London. It was not so much a question of what artists the British liked, but of their daring to make any choice in the matter. Or they had chosen too many exiles, or too many left-wing artists, or too many fellow-travellers with bourgeois morality.

No Greek month in London could be representative, and therefore none ought to take place. Those who enjoy the life of the city of Athens find this kind of unrepresentative logic on the whole enjoyable, but it does not so much a question of what million miles of the sober opinions of most Athenians, or even of some of the Greek writers and artists whose names have been bandied about.

So far this is a story for the silly season, something to gossip about in a café. But the backwash of Balkan gossip some times hits British readers like a tidal wave, and that has begun to happen in this case. The Greeks are being put by some of their friends in a foolish position. If it is not paternalist or colonialist for the ICA to select French or German exhibitions, what is special about the Greek case? One might say that in France an

international critical judgment of long and continuous standards determines the choice. But it is there ever going to be a judgment about Greece if it is not possible to have events in the Greek month in London. And in fact what has been selected has been central, least in every area where the world means anything.

The poetry of Sefiris, Gatsos, of Ritsos, and of Ely is incontestably central in contemporary Greek literature. Tzetzis, who is speaker in a central figure in politics and a rather conservative statesman. Painters like Ghikas and Tsarouchis would have been part of a well-organized Greek month at any time in the past 20 years.

Of course Greece is still lacerating her wounds, some or most of them inflicted by old friends but that does not mean that either the government or the people are isolationist. What impresses me about the Greek month is the diversity of what is being presented, the outward-going life that has entered what one might have expected to be a dusty and official enterprise. The atmosphere is in some ways like that of Paris in 1946, the re-emergence of old and loved painters, the furious political arguments, and the festival of jazz. Whatever else it is, the month of Greece in 1975, the whole country and particularly the young are in a state of deep fermentation. There is a skin of caution, because the burnt child fears the fire, but neither the Government nor anyone else, least of all the British ICA, has any pretension to control such a life-force. Greece is facing Europe in a more courageous mood than we were a few years ago.

As for the danger of paternalism and colonialism in the arts, in this it is the British who are the burnt children. In every British art with the exception of literature, we have usually been strangely mislead abroad, and often provincially derivative at home, both for better and worse. This has not meant that our culture has ceased to be itself, nor is there the slightest fear that Greek culture will suffer that fate in the near future.

Even those modern, rather experimental arts which do speak internationally, and which are therefore one of the principal subjects of dispute, the ICA Greek exhibition does have a particularly Greek flavour. It is hard to translate or explain such things. How can one say, after all, what is so French about modern French painting, or what is European about Europe, in any but its most backward aspects? If it were irresponsible as to try to put in words the impressions that contemporary Greek culture makes on me, I would say it is something to do with freedom, a blast of fresh air with a faint smell of gunpowder.

Peter Levi

How Mr Wilson's familiar image could reap dividends

George Hutchinson

As faithful readers of these columns will have gathered, I am not to be numbered among the prophets of national ruin. I do not believe that we are foredoomed to economic catastrophe and social collapse. To the extent that we are threatened with the first, from which the second will no doubt follow, we can blame ourselves for there is nobody else to blame. But if we can recognize our faults, then we should be able to correct what is wrong and avert the destruction so commonly so despairingly predicted.

Our resources as a nation, material and moral alike, are still very great. Indeed in some spheres they have never been greater, as many people abroad are more ready than we do ourselves. We possess the assets essential to recovery, and we possess them in abundance. What we lack is guidance, direction and leadership of a broad, unbiased, unprejudiced character designed to unite rather than divide, to harmonize rather than disrupt.

The Archbishop of Canterbury understands this. Hence his intervention in a more worldly discourse than he might otherwise have joined. Mr Wilson understands it too. But can Mr Wilson accomplish what is required of him? Perhaps he can; for besides having a sense of responsibility, he has unique authority as Prime Minister.

There are intimations that he is trying to achieve some-

thing loftier than his own survival as the leader of a party unduly indulgent towards an immoderate left. But he could surely have been more severe with the left at Wednesday's meeting of the National Executive. A faction that despises his own social democratic instincts and would willingly dismantle our established institutions is not worth preserving for the sake of so-called unity.

That "unity" is illusory. If Mr Wilson but knew it, he could do anything recognizably helpful to the wider public interest and have the country behind him as never before. Whether you personally care for him or not, the truth is that he enjoys an uncommon degree of individual good will. Nor is this surprising. Apart from anything else, he has been with us for a long time; he is by now a very familiar figure.

Familiar figures can do things that unfamiliar figures would never dare attempt. Mr Wilson could quickly gain in general esteem and respect by putting the brake on a number of measures to which he and his government—or rather his party—are committed in principle. If they are not misconceived they are mistaken.

Judged even from the standpoint of the extreme left, there can be no vital need to rush ahead with the nationalization of the shipbuilding and aircraft industries. Nor can extension of the comprehensive system in education be justified on grounds of immediate necessity. What is the urgency? Whence the mandate? It is not as if the Government had been voted into office by an overwhelming majority of the electorate.

Too late, you may say: Mr Wilson has just reaffirmed his intentions and can hardly be asked to let alone expected to go back on them. Not so. It is seldom too late to alter course, or at least to postpone the introduction of policies for which there can be no immediate justification. There is nothing unreasonable in asking a Government formed on such slender foundations to pause and reflect.

Mr Wilson would gain greatly by adopting a policy of caution and consolidation. The country is looking for reassurance, not disturbance and upheaval.

□ To my mind, there is a lot to

be said for progressing backwards, towards ways and practices that have served us well in the past. Innovation is not always a good thing. Change should as often be resisted as encouraged.

On a domestic level, consider the computer—the infallible computer, now omnipotent. Whatever its merits in other spheres (and I am not denying them) the computer is responsible for more accounting mistakes than we ever experienced in the past, bringing inconvenience, anxiety and misunderstanding in their wake. Are household bills or any other statements of account more reliable than they used to be? Nor when they are produced by a computer.

Meanwhile many valuable old crafts are becoming extinct. In some localities you cannot find a cobbler nowadays. Good bakers are a rarity like blacksmiths. Small shops and businesses of every kind are closing down. Variety and warmth are giving place to a melancholy uniformity.

I was reading a charming book the other day by my friend I. W. M. Thompson, who writes his country essays under the immortal name of Peter Quince. Called *Country Life* (George Allen and Unwin, £3.95), it is partly about his own unspoiled village in a Hertfordshire valley. Unspoiled, that is, except in this respect: not 100 years ago that selfsame village had its own tailor, shoemaker, tinsmith, tiler, saddler, blacksmith, carpenter and carrier—besides butcher and baker, of course. All are gone. As John Thompson writes, a traveller in rural England today might conclude that the only village craftsmen still flourishing were selling either frozen food to the inhabitants or antiques to tourists.

Not that we can blame Labour for this sad decline. But we can blame Labour for furthering a process of social disintegration by positive encouragement of individual effort, of private endeavour, in favour of collective—or socialized—or "community"—policies.

Which returns us to an earlier point. While we cannot regain or restore everything that has been lost, we can preserve what is worth keeping, instead of throwing it away. We can sustain instead of destroying, defend instead of decaying—given the will which fair, firm leadership could evoke.

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The Box Brownie that put Cecil Beaton on the path to My Fair Lady

In 1925 Cecil Beaton confided to his diary—"I'm desperate... I don't want to take photographs, which would be a pretty waste of time. But where in the hell will I get the money to start an establishment where I could turn out theatrical designs. I feel so annoyed going to theatres and picture palaces and seeing others shine. I want to shine myself."

He began visiting the theatre at the age of four, and at ten staged a production of the musical *Oh Oh Delphine*, in a hat box, cast with photographs from *The Play Pictorial*. In his last year at Harrow, in 1921, he shone as writer, producer and actor for a charity show, leaving school as "a prize art student" under the lasting influence of Léon Bakst, whose genius he admired in performances of the Ballets Russes.

At Cambridge he played female leads in four plays, designed five productions, and triumphed in a Footlights Revue. His undergraduate career opened in 1922 as *Princess Angelica* in Thackeray's *The Rose and the Ring*, praised as "a cruel satire on the modern Society girl", and the following year he designed *Volpone* with veridical stage curtains, and blue and silver hangings, for crimson-robed senators—clearly a touch of the Baksts.

Beaton's most important production at Cambridge was the first English version of Pirandello's *Henry IV*, in which he played the Marchioness Spina, considered the outstanding performance of the year by *Granita*. His designs won the admiration

of Humbert Wolfe and Harold Acton. After working on Saké's *The Watched Pot*, he teamed up with his friend Edward le Bas as "Beattie and Bass" in a triumphantly ending his university career in the 1925 Footlights Revue. All the *Vogue* (a prophetic forecast of the future). His turns included a skit on Tallulah Bankhead in Noël Coward's *Fallen Angels*.

One can imagine the contrast between all this glamorous involvement and Mr Schmitz's office for importing cement. Beaton sought every opportunity for promoting his theatrical ambitions, following up the unsuccessful interview with Coward by tracking down Dischinger in Venice to no avail. He turned to the Strevells for solace, photographing Edith in historical settings, designing Osbert's and Sachseverell's play, *First Class Passengers Only* at the Arts Theatre in 1927. To train and prove himself, he created tableaux vivants at charity functions, appearing alongside such friends as Lady Diana Cooper, Oliver Messeli and Beverley Nichols, as china wives, great lovers or fashions of the future.

Beaton was 30 years old and famous as a photographer, before the war. C. B. Coward, appreciating the publicity value, asked him to design costumes for the 1934 revue *Streamline*.

Two years later, for another Coward show, *Follow the Sun*, Beaton began his historic collaboration with Frederick Ashton in the ballet *The First Shoot*—an appropriately Edwardian comedy.

In one of his pre-war revues, Noël Coward presented: *Though Waterloo was won Upon the playing fields of Eton*. The next war will be photographed and lost by Cecil Beaton.

For that, he deserves only half marks. Beaton's war time photography did not restrict theatrical operations; in 1940 he wrote and toured army camps in *Heil Cinderella*, and started his cinema career with the film *Major Barbara* in 1941. That is the beginning of another story, leading to such triumphs as Gielgud's 1945 production of *Lady Windermere's Fan*, the film *Gigi* in 1958, and *My Fair Lady*, stage version 1956, and the film of 1964. The famous music producer Beaton to express all his predilections and gifts—nostalgia for his childhood and the Edwardian stage, as well as a scholarly fascination for the decorative arts of the period.

Charles Spencer
Cecil Beaton: Stage and Film Designs is published by Academy Editions, price £7.95.



Suzanne Cadden: only in America could she make money as a golfer, but she does not want to go.



Gladys Cooper as Kiki, drawn by Cecil Beaton in 1924, and a caricature of himself as a budding photographer in 1926.

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Swansea pack to test all aspects of Australian forward play

Anthony Shaw, went well last Saturday at Gorse, it looks as if Cornelsen is edging on Ellhouse for the No 3 position in the international pack but there can be little to choose between the pair and Pearce for one of the positions on a flank.

Certainly there is no aspect of forward play in which the present Australian alignment will not be well tested this afternoon. There are four Welsh internationals in the Swansea pack—Mervyn Davies, Trevor Evans, Whed and Llewellyn—as well as Keyworth, a flanker chosen for England in Saturday's first test in Wales, a proven mauling full back, Blyth, who with John P. R. Williams, has been chosen to play for the country. One of the most encouraging items for the Australians in Bristol was the performance of a young stand-off, Wright, who after a couple of unhappy games earlier, stood in danger of losing his place to the more experienced and reliable Jones.

Against Western Counties, although not impeccable on the end of a variable service, Wright at least evoked echoes of the England-Australia series of the summer. No doubt he will have the chance to bolster his confidence further on Tuesday against South of Scotland. Today, however, Hindmarsh is brought back, after missing the last three games. Until he was injured, Hindmarsh was in the first international.

Geoffrey Shaw, a big inside centre, who played his first game on Wednesday for over three weeks, has suffered a recurrence of hamstring trouble and cannot play for another four weeks. This rules him out of the international against Scotland and Wales. Berne, a fast and penetrating runner, has been chosen at inside centre this afternoon. He partners Evans, a calm, experienced performer with a particularly sound defence.

SWANSEA: W. R. Byrd; G. Higgins; J. Rees; W. Williams; G. Jones; D. Richards; R. Dyer; A. Lewis; A. Mages; P. Llewellyn; B. Clive; D. Whed; T. Evans; T. M. Davies (captain); L. Keyworth.

AUSTRALIA: P. D. McLean; L. E. Monaghan; R. D. L'Estrange (captain); J. Berne; G. B. Gatch; J. E. Hindmarsh; G. H. Barton; R. Graham; R. A. Smith; G. Fay; J. K. Lambie; G. Cornelsen; A. A. Shaw.

Referee: A. M. Hoyle (Scotland).

Preparation for a date at Twickenham

At this time of year, when rain is so common, it is a relief to see a team like Swansea, who are only seven days away from the first test in Wales, preparing for a date at Twickenham on December 9, with the universities of Oxford and Cambridge playing their last rugby match of the season. The match, which is being played at Twickenham, is a significant one for the Welsh team, as it is the last time they will play in the Welsh colours before they travel to the north to play the first test in Wales.

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Chance for Roses to grow in experience

By Sydney Friskin

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Oxford's lap of honour comes before finish

Rex Bellamy

Oxford's lead by beating the persistent but eventually tired Bate, who seemed to drain his resources by an abortive recovery from 0-6 down in the third set, and a similar recovery in the fourth, in the fifth it became apparent that Bate could no longer play. In the fifth it became apparent that Bate could no longer play. In the fifth it became apparent that Bate could no longer play.

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British woman in last four

Benjamin, Nov 28.—Lesley Potter, Britain, reached the semi-final of the women's division at world ten-pin bowling cup today. She totalled 1,363 in the first round, 1,394 in the second, 1,394 in the third, 1,394 in the fourth, 1,394 in the fifth, 1,394 in the sixth, 1,394 in the seventh, 1,394 in the eighth, 1,394 in the ninth, 1,394 in the tenth, 1,394 in the eleventh, 1,394 in the twelfth, 1,394 in the thirteenth, 1,394 in the fourteenth, 1,394 in the fifteenth, 1,394 in the sixteenth, 1,394 in the seventeenth, 1,394 in the eighteenth, 1,394 in the nineteenth, 1,394 in the twentieth, 1,394 in the twenty-first, 1,394 in the twenty-second, 1,394 in the twenty-third, 1,394 in the twenty-fourth, 1,394 in the twenty-fifth, 1,394 in the twenty-sixth, 1,394 in the twenty-seventh, 1,394 in the twenty-eighth, 1,394 in the twenty-ninth, 1,394 in the thirtieth, 1,394 in the thirty-first, 1,394 in the thirty-second, 1,394 in the thirty-third, 1,394 in the thirty-fourth, 1,394 in the thirty-fifth, 1,394 in the thirty-sixth, 1,394 in the thirty-seventh, 1,394 in the thirty-eighth, 1,394 in the thirty-ninth, 1,394 in the 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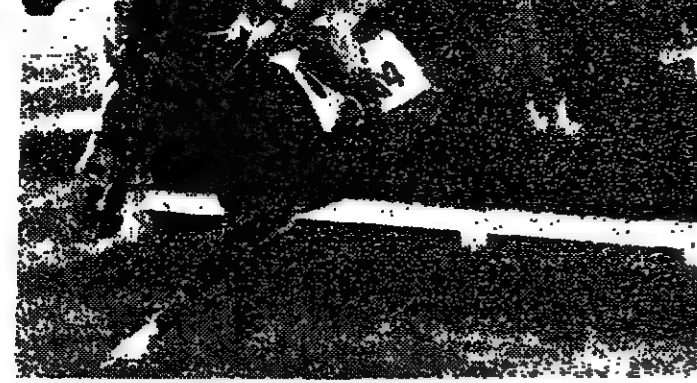
SPORT
Racing

Tree Tangle can keep up good work of Turnell stable

By Michael Phillips
Racing Correspondent

Four of the six races at Sandown Park this afternoon have been sponsored by Benson and Hedges but this is the last time that they are doing so. Although they have decided to withdraw their support from Sandown, where, in the past, they have helped to make the Eclipse Stakes day such an occasion.

With Bob Turnell's horses in such wonderful form, I will not be surprised if Tree Tangle wins the Benson and Hedges Handicap at Sandown, where, in the past, they have helped to make the Eclipse Stakes day such an occasion. Tree Tangle won his first race a year ago and then won three of his next four. Further, more, anyone who was at Newbury last Saturday ought to be only too well aware of what the Benson and Hedges Handicap can do when they are in form. Tree Tangle finished third in the Champion Hurdle last March. On that occasion he was the only one to make a race of it with Comedy of Errors once the heat was turned on. Tree Tangle put Supreme Halo firmly in his place at Kempton Park on Boxing Day and now that Supreme Halo has been penalized for winning the Black and White Hurdle at Ascot a fortnight ago, Tree Tangle has to give him only 3 lb. He should be up to that task. Admittedly, Robert Forsyth is taking some weight off Supreme Halo's back by claiming his 7 lb allowance but it is pertinent to remember that that



Early Spring takes early lead, at the first fence of the Bookham Novices' Steeplechase.

Halo at Ascot earlier this month. Always an easy frib, fresh from winning at Newcastle, he is trained by Peter Easterby, who has hopes of winning the two most valuable prizes this afternoon with Alverton and Easy Abbey. Having taken Easy Abbey's side at Ascot a fortnight ago, when he clashed with Flashy Boy in the Black and White Hurdle, Gold Cup, I feel almost bound to do so again. They met on equal terms that day. Now Easy Abbey is carrying 12 lb more than Flashy Boy. The reins were teamed down so persistently throughout yesterday afternoon that it cannot have helped Tingle Creek in his attempt to give 2 lb to Easy Abbey. Tingle Creek holds the course

Grand Canyon to give West Indies yield to Gilmour and Lillee

By Michael Seely

Grand Canyon, the spearhead of determined antipodean assault on one important hurdle prize this winter, can make amends for his unlikely fall on the flat in the race won by Asdic at Haydock Park on Thursday by winning the Lincolnshire Poacher Hurdle at Market Rasen this afternoon.

Grand Canyon, owned by the New Zealand-born and Sydney-based financier Pat Samuel who landed a spectacular gamble when Captain Chittenden sprang to win the hill at Cheltenham to win the 1974 Gold Cup, is but one of a formidable trio of New Zealand-bred horses now in the care of Derek Kent at Chichester. The other two are the Australian champion hurdler Navigation and Fennemo Prince. Navigation, who caught the eye with a highly promising first run when third behind William Pitt at Sandown Park, has since disappointed in heavy ground in France and will now wait for a faster going. The hope of the side is undoubtedly Fennemo Prince, the winner of 16 races in his native New Zealand and reckoned as the superior to Navigation in New Zealand. Unfortunately the mud-louping Fennemo Prince caught a virus infection on his long journey across the oceans and lost a great deal of condition. Now reported to be recovering fast, Fennemo Prince may well have a real chance of winning the Irish Sweepstake Hurdle at Leopardstown. In the meantime Grand Canyon can make his fourth appearance in this country a winning one by giving weight all round to some useful recruits to his stable.

hit out freely and his included seven fours and sixes.

The only early batsman to escape the clutches of Lillee was Alvin Matthews, who was out for 28. He made a start in his return to Test cricket but seemed to be settling down when he was beaten by Trescothick.

The West Indian quickly dispensed with Trescothick's only wicket, taking his only wicket in Tests. Mallett, the off-spinner, took the only wicket when he was beaten by Trescothick in his first over. Turner dominated Australia's opening stand, a record 100 runs for the pair, but he was out for 100. Gilmour played in Tests, took the only wicket when he was beaten by Trescothick in his first over. Turner dominated Australia's opening stand, a record 100 runs for the pair, but he was out for 100. Gilmour played in Tests, took the only wicket when he was beaten by Trescothick in his first over.

Sandown Park programme

[Television (IBA): 1.30, 2.0, 2.30 and 3.0 races]

- 1.0 POND STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £904.00; 3m 118yd)
101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
103 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
104 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
105 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
106 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
107 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
108 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
109 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
110 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
111 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
112 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
113 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
114 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
115 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
116 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
117 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
118 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
119 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
120 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby

Chepstow programme

[Television (BBC1): 1.0, 1.30, 2.0 and 2.30 races]

- 1.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)
101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
103 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
104 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
105 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
106 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
107 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
108 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
109 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
110 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
111 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
112 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
113 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
114 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
115 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
116 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
117 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
118 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
119 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
120 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby

2.0 MARKSMAN HURDLE (Handicap: £403: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
103 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
104 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
105 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
106 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
107 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
108 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
109 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
110 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
111 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
112 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
113 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
114 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
115 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
116 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
117 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
118 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
119 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
120 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby

3.0 RETRIEVER STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £471: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
103 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
104 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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Sedgefield programme

[Television (BBC1): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

- 1.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)
101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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Market Rasen programme

[Television (IBA): 1.45, 2.15 and 2.45 races]

- 1.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)
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120 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby

3.0 RETRIEVER STEEPLECHASE (Handicap: £471: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
103 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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4.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div II: £340: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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5.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)

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102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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6.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div II: £340: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R. Armstrong, 9-11-8
102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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7.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)

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102 122-49 Royal Measure (C.D.) (P. White), M. Moore, 10-11-8 R. Ashby
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9.0 HARE HURDLE (Novices: Div I: £340: 2m)

- 101 122-49 Connelton (Miss S. Sheehan), R

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Personal
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Banks expected to hold rates despite a further cut in MLR

Tim Congdon
The gilt market was also unenthusiastic about the move. The "short" end, which would normally benefit most from a MLR change, was down on the day.

"Longs" fell back heavily by about 1 point. They were unsettled by the announcement of a new long-dated "tap" issue to be known as Treasury 13½ per cent 1997 "A", amounting to £750m.

The new issue will absorb most of any fresh buying and immediately makes the prospect of immediate capital gains, for which some dealers have been hoping, much weaker.

This issue is the second tranche of a stock which was first announced in July. Demand for the first tranche of £750m was so strong that the stock never operated as a "tap", because an insufficient amount was left in the authorities' hands after the initial applications.

Issue price of Treasury 13½ per cent 1997 is £12.50. The gross redemption yield is 15.05 per cent and the flat yield 14.97 per cent. Although these rates were almost exactly in line with the market when the issue was announced in July, the afternoon a fall in prices after hours has made the stock rather expensive.

The coincidence of a cut in MLR and the announcement of a new long-dated "tap" suggests that the authorities are trying to steepen the yield curve. A steeper yield curve would encourage investors to move into less liquid assets and would be consistent with the view that the authorities are pursuing a generally restrictive monetary policy.

The Finance Houses Association announced yesterday that from Monday (December 1) its base rate will be 12 per cent, compared with 11½ per cent for November.

The yield on Treasury bills at present attractive compared to other short-term financial assets in the United Kingdom. Demand for bills outside the banking system has, therefore, been unusually strong and has contributed to the reduction in the average Treasury bill rate.

Clicking banks reacted cautiously to the MLR cut yesterday. They are sceptical about the scope for a general decline in United Kingdom interest rates at the moment and seem likely to hold their base rates at present levels for the time being.

US recovery doubts as index falls again

Reagan Frank Ford
Washington, Nov 28
America's composite index of leading economic indicators fell 0.5 per cent last month, after a decline of 0.1 per cent in September, which was the first drop since March. Taken together the declines in the past two months are bound to be seen by many economists as an ominous sign that the American economic recovery is faltering.

The Department of Commerce said the index was 102 (1967 equals 100) last month. One of the most important of the 12 indicators that make up the index, the one for new orders, was particularly weak. It fell 1.5 per cent in October, after a rise of 0.5 per cent in September.

Economists view the composite index as one of the best means for determining the future of the economy. The upswing in the index in March and April proved to be the first statistical evidence that the worst of the recession was over and a significant improvement in the economy lay ahead.

The Commerce Department noted gains in October in the indicators of general sales performance, changes in sensitive prices, contracts for orders for plant and equipment, share prices and new orders. These gains were more than offset by declines in the indicators of total business liquid assets, net business formation, money balances and building permits.

Indicators for the employment-lay-off rate and the average work week were unchanged, while data for business inventories were not available. But, the data for new orders, which is unlikely to improve, revised figures for the index as a whole if recent business surveys are any guide.

The disappointing news did not appear to have much impact today on the share market. The New York Stock Exchange closed at 117.00, down 1.00 from the previous day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1.00 to 1,170.00.

Pound slide continues

continued from page 1

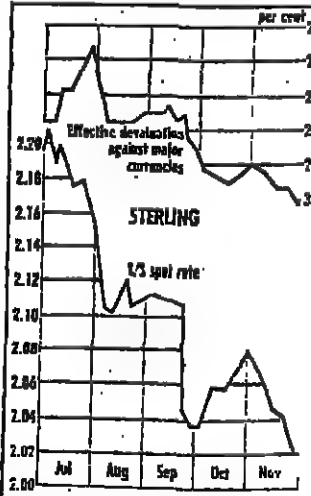
stitute for Economic and Social Research, which provides the main non-governmental assessment of the pound, also bauld heavily over a foreign exchange market. Its Economic Review, published yesterday morning, the institute forecast high unemployment, high inflation and a substantial foreign trade deficit for the next two years.

But it was not only against a dollar that the pound reached a new "low". The floating devaluation rate for sterling also reached levels unseen before. This rate, weighted to allow for trade flows between the pound and its 10 most important trade partners, worsened to 1.1 per cent, compared with 0.8 per cent on Thursday and 0.7 per cent at the beginning of the year. On this measure, the pound has thus depreciated nearly a third since it was set by Mr. Anthony Barber, a former Chancellor, in the summer of 1972.

The continuing slide has surprised many sections of the City which had expected that the government would be unwilling to see the pound fall below 0.00. It is the apparent premeditation of the authorities to let the rate still lower that has generated a fresh desire by selling dollars to sell.

It is now being assumed that the government is prepared to countenance further fall in the pound as an additional reason for introducing some selective import controls. The imposition of such controls is widely believed to be imminent.

Although the ground for import controls has been prepared, it is not clear whether the government is prepared to countenance further fall in the pound as an additional reason for introducing some selective import controls. The imposition of such controls is widely believed to be imminent.



peeling argument in favour of such restrictions.

But with the dollar rising sharply, sterling was not the only currency in focus on the foreign exchanges, and it is probable that the Rambouillet understanding between the French and the Americans to manage exchange rates more firmly could now face its first real test.

However, it seems to be in Tokyo that the real pressure is for the moment being exerted most strongly. The Bank of Japan was reported to have spent about \$170m in supporting the yen against the dollar yesterday. This brings the total such support to almost \$700m since the Rambouillet conference.

The other prominent pressure point on exchange rates does not involve the dollar at all, but centres currently on the so-called currency "snake", which comprises the floating block of European currencies. High interest rates in France and low rates in West Germany and the Netherlands have led to a steady rise in the value of the German mark.

Japanese go to top of British car imports table

By Our Industrial Editor

Japan's booming car manufacturers shipped 106,816 passenger cars into Britain in the first 10 months of this year, a rise of 34,106 on the corresponding period of 1974. Customs and Excise returns, issued yesterday, put the import value at nearly £94m. The number of units imported exceeded even those from France, making Japan the top importer into Britain.

It was announced in Japan yesterday by the national car manufacturers association that 9,802 cars were exported during October to Britain. These vehicles will be arriving about now, given the average six weeks' delivery time.

This October shipment from Japan (arrivals in Britain in the same month totalled 6,956 units against 14,252 in October, 1974) is virtually double the entire sales registrations of Chrysler UK in September.

Between January and October this year, Japan's import deliveries into British ports of 106,816 units compared with 100,966 from France, 59,908 from Germany, 50,816 from Italy and 20,866 from Sweden. One in every three imported cars now comes from Japan.

Although Japanese importers stress that their recent success has been restricted, these latest returns will be closely studied by the Department of Trade and the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders in preparation for next month's talks with Japanese car makers in London. Mr. Peter Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, has already described the level of importation as "unacceptable".

Union leaders are unlikely to view the figures with anything but hostility when the whole future of Chrysler UK looks so bleak, and British Leyland is fighting to raise its market share alongside the equally financially hard-pressed Vauxhall Motors.

But it must be said that imports from European Community producers are also well up. Arrivals in the first 10 months of this year were 236,453 from EEC sources against 202,207 in the same months a year before.

Car imports for 1975 as a whole will be valued at more than £400m, a year when home production has been depressed and sales demand is said to be restricted. Next week the Government is expected to make a statement about selective import controls, which may include cars.

Latest returns from Japan show that car producers exporting 249,654 units to world markets in October, up 10.6 per cent on September and up 22.1 per cent on a year before. Against this figure, Britain's imports for October look extremely modest.

There is evidence that Datsun UK, the leading importer of Japanese cars, has been moderating its shipments to line up with government requests. Datsun's arrivals, scheduled from September to December, total 13,639 units against 29,189 for the comparable four months of 1974.

Curb on TV tubes 'could hurt British'

By David Young

Import controls on Japanese television tubes, which are being demanded by 54 Labour MPs and trade unions, could create "tremendous difficulties" for British makers, one manufacturer said yesterday.

Mr. Derek Jeffs, a director and general manager of Toshiba (UK), which supplies about 15 per cent of colour tubes used in British-built sets, said the Japanese companies were being unjustly made the scapegoats.

He said the majority of British-made sets which incorporate Japanese tubes are small-screen sets, for which there is no British alternative.

Mr. Jeffs said that the United Kingdom manufacturers had chosen these tubes because of their advanced design. "There are British manufacturers with whole production lines geared to producing colour TV sets with such tubes."

"As a result, they are able to offer top quality products on the home market and also through using technologically advanced components—compared in export markets, which are otherwise closed to them. Obviously import controls would cause these manufacturers tremendous difficulties."

Japanese tube imports by Britain dropped from \$53,702 in 1973 by 21.1 per cent to \$67,608 in 1974. In the first nine months of this year the figure was \$69,835, a 24.3 per cent drop compared to the same period in 1974.

In October, the Department of Trade had cleared the Japanese television tube industry of allegations that it was dumping in the United Kingdom.

As well as importing tubes from Japan, the latest figures available from the British Radio Equipment Manufacturers' Association show that Britain imports 15 per cent of colour TVs sold, or 172,000 sets so far this year.

Chrysler UK looks set for rundown

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

Unless the present divided Cabinet resolves to mount a temporary rescue operation under the Industry Act, a sharp run-down of Chrysler UK, starting early next year, will be announced by the Government next week.

In this event Mr. Wilson will declare the Chrysler Corporation of America to be in breach of undertakings to maintain its British operations. This could mean a blockade of any financial transactions consequent upon a withdrawal of support for its British subsidiary, which employs 25,000 workers.

Mr. John Riccardo, chairman of the American parent company, returned to the United States yesterday, having made several other proposals to British ministers involving the provision of heavy state assistance for ailing-down operations in this country. These are now being examined, but Whitehall sources indicated that they were at present unacceptable.

Everything now depends on the Cabinet's view of a situation where the Government has three choices—easing the impact of a phased run-down, providing short-term financial support to buy more time for considering the Chrysler problem or injecting a huge sum in new model development.

The last two options are more or less interdependent. Even rationalization of plants to limit the costs of Government aid is difficult, given the structure of Chrysler UK's facilities in the Midlands and Scotland.

If a phased run-down takes place, and first the Chrysler Corporation would have to renounce past undertakings to previous governments as well as this administration, the Government is likely to consult British Leyland to see whether some assistance can be given in finding alternative use for engineering facilities.

It is not necessarily a wild suggestion that British Leyland may be interested in using Linwood for lorry and bus manufacturing operations, though there are bound to be redundancies and time-lags on top of anxieties about the cost penalty involved in component supplies.

The main Chrysler assembly plant, at Ryton, in the Midlands, shut down yesterday for the whole of December, with the management making no commitment to buy more time for considering the Chrysler problem or injecting a huge sum in new model development.

Workers will be notified individually when production is to start during their previously agreed lay-off. Linwood and the Stoke engine plants are working a three-day week, with uncertainty overhanging the future of a vital Iranian export contract which is a lifeline with Chrysler UK home sales sharply down.

Anxieties exist among component makers, too, because suppliers like Lucas and GKN have important current accounts with Chrysler. Meanwhile, Chrysler UK's dealers, now being asked to mount yet another sales drive (manpower and dealer sales total about 22,000 units), are extremely gloomy about the outlook.

Mr. William Dewing, national chairman of the Chrysler Dealers Association, said yesterday he considered there was no chance of Chrysler UK continuing at its present size and many of the company's 830 dealers, employing 30,000 workers, would switch to the sale of foreign cars.

Few would be able to change to British Leyland or Ford, and his expectation was that European manufacturers would gain.

The present dealer network, he pointed out, was geared for Chrysler UK having a 13.5 per cent market, though it had only a 6.4 per cent share last month and was down this month. He said it made no sense to keep just Linwood going, as some had suggested, because car manufacture needed high volumes.

While pessimistic about Chrysler UK's future as a car maker, he thought there could be a sound future for its Dodge and Commer truck operations at Dunstable.

Chrysler UK's management was still putting on a brave face yesterday amid all the gloom. Linwood has been told it will reopen some time in January after the mid-December break and the Stoke engine plant, vital to export work, is to restart on January 12. But a spokesman, asked about Mr. Riccardo's intentions, could only state: "We just do not know his plans."

Both sides at Cowley silent over moves to reach the output target

By R. W. Shakespeare

Senior management officials from British Leyland's much troubled Cowley, Oxford, opened fresh negotiations with union officials yesterday.

They are aimed at resolving long-standing problems over grading and working arrangements that have led to warnings of a possible shutdown of some operations unless output levels are improved.

After several hours of discussion between the two sides, a management spokesman said last night that it had been agreed to meet statements.

It seems obvious that the negotiations may extend over some days or even weeks and that the management will be trying to get agreement with the unions on restructuring the grading system and working procedures.

Mr. Desmond North, the Cowley plant director, last weekend circulated a letter warning the workers that low output figures had resulted in some assembly operations running at significantly unprofitable levels. He said that unless target figures were achieved these lines would be shut down and workers sent home.

This warning closely followed an abrasive statement by Lord Ryder, chairman of the National Enterprise Board, who said that unofficial strikes in the Leyland car plants must stop and a substantial improvement in productivity achieved to justify the planned investment in the company.

These moves brought a quick response from shop floor leaders and the unions although they did not prevent one more unofficial walk-out and another threatened strike by Cowley workers this week.

However, the management appears to have been satisfied that output levels during this week have been high enough to avoid carrying out the threat to send workers home.

Last night the company spokesman was coy about revealing output figures. He said: "We are not anxious to get involved in a numbers game at this stage, except to say that during this week there has been an improvement."

While it seems obvious that target production figures are not yet being reached at Cowley, the management is clearly not ready to press matters too hard while negotiations with the unions are going on.

Certainly the plant has lost some production, including Max car output, because of the walk-out on Thursday by 120 men in the body pressing shop over a manning dispute. This led to 500 other workers being sent home yesterday. These strikers went back to work pending further negotiations.

S Korea accedes to EEC textile quotas

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 28

After more than a week of hard bargaining South Korea reached agreement with the European Economic Community yesterday to accept quotas for its textile exports to the EEC. Five earlier rounds of negotiations had ended in stalemate.

The Koreans had little option but to come to terms this time because the EEC had made it clear that, if no agreement was reached, the Community would have to take unilateral action from the beginning of next year to protect its textile industry.

The Community had already introduced a number of import curbs on Korean textiles after the earlier rounds of talks, but these were due to expire at the end of this year. Details of the new arrangements were not immediately available.

During the past year, the EEC has conducted bilateral negotiations with India, Pakistan, Hongkong, Singapore, Malaysia and Macao. Negotiations are in progress with Japan, Mexico, Colombia and Brazil.

The negotiations, which are being conducted under the Multifibre Agreement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, are designed to promote a gradual liberalization of trade, while protecting Community textile producers against market disruption.

According to the latest estimates of the European Commission, there are now 800,000 textile workers in the EEC, out of a total textile work force of 1.5 million who are either on short time or wholly unemployed.

Export meetings: Mr. Lawrence Mills, Hongkong's Deputy Director of Commerce and Industry, will leave for Europe today for talks on textile exports, a government spokesman said in Hongkong.

The spokesman said Mr. Mills would start his three-week stay in Europe by attending a meeting in Geneva of the Textile Committee of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Mr. David Jordan, Hongkong's Director of Commerce and Industry, would also be leading a delegation at the consultations with the EEC in Brussels on December 15.—Reuter.

Fewer permits for offices

Office development permits issued in 1974-75 dropped significantly as a result of the strict controls on developments in London and the South-East.

Figures published yesterday by the Department of the Environment show that only 241 permits were issued for the year, compared with 374 in 1973-74. The gross floor area represented by the permits was halved from 11.89 million sq ft to 11.40 million.

Stocks of bricks continued to fall in October, the department says. Brick production during the month was 483 million and deliveries 532 million. Stocks fell from 960 million in 511 million—equivalent to about four weeks' production.

Unions want Fiat to take on Innocenti

From John Earle
Rome, Nov 28

An Italian metalworkers' federation spokesman today reaffirmed union opposition to a Japanese takeover of Leyland-Innocenti and confused reports of approaches by Honda to acquire the Milan car assembly plant, whose liquidation was announced on Wednesday.

"We are for an Italian solution", the spokesman said. That, in practice, would mean a takeover by Fiat, which has announced its readiness to consider coming to the aid of Innocenti. The state-owned Alfa Romeo has declined, because it faces serious difficulties of its own.

In the spokesman's words, a Honda takeover would be "unacceptable and devoid of serious prospects". The unions, however, are pressing for the Innocenti plant to be reconverted from the assembly of commercial vans and small trucks to a plant for building cars.

Last night a government commission spoke of a "Japanese initiative", but a series of denials from Tokyo today left a confused impression as to what Honda was planning.

In Tokyo, Mr. Hideo Sugura, managing director of Honda, said today through a spokesman that "the company has not received any formal offer" from the Italian government concerning a takeover of Innocenti.

"As long as details of this matter are unclear, Honda is not in a position to express any indication of its will", Mr. Sugura said. The Honda spokesman repeatedly protested today that nobody in the company had any knowledge of a letter which Signor Carlo Castelli, the Italian industry minister, said his government had received from Honda offering to acquire the Innocenti factory.

Clifford Webb writes: A spokesman at the London headquarters of British Leyland International said: "We cannot reveal the identity of any of the third parties involved in the present talks about the future of Innocenti. All negotiations are under the administration of the Italian government."

Manganese writes off NVT stake

By Anthony Rowley

Manganese Bronze Holdings, the diversified engineering group, has written off its near 50 per cent stake in the troubled Norton Villiers Triumph motorcycle concern, at a cost of more than £2m.

This move was expected after the protracted troubles which have reduced NVT to a nominal manufacturing operation compared with its original size. These problems have rendered the NVT investment worthless in the eyes of the Manganese Bronze board.

MBH has provided £2.7m against the book value of its holding in NVT and against "all anticipated liabilities" relating to it. This sum is much larger than the £1.76m reserves which MBH had in its last accounts, but the group has recently had certain properties revalued, throwing up a surplus of £1.53m over book value which has been added to reserves.

Preliminary figures for the financial year to July 31 show that Manganese Bronze made profits of £322,000 against £233,000 in the previous financial year. The group is paying a one-off dividend for 1974-75 of 0.25p net a share against 0.375p in the previous year, when only an interim payment was made. MBH shares closed unchanged at 7½ on the Stock Exchange last night.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 150.12 -0.93
The FT index: 357.3 -3.0

Rises		Falls	
Allied Brew	2p to 68p	APV Bldgs	15p to 235p
Ampol Per	4p to 65p	Arrol Ind	11p to 141p
Aust & NZ	15p to 425p	Barclays Bk	7p to 29p
BN Str Broken	10p to 175p	Bentley	3p to 125p
GHP Grp	10p to 110p	Bentley	3p to 125p
Imperial Chem Ind	1p to 31p	Brit Portland	10p to 230p
Johnson Mat	1p to 29p	Hawker Sidd	7p to 315p
LRC Int	2p to 37p	Howard Bldg	5p to 41p
M&P Grp	2p to 37p	Paarl	8p to 224p
MTM Hites	5p to 20p	Prop Bldgs	7p to 198p
P&O W&A	30p to 455p	Reid Bldg	21p to 255p
Unid Dom Tr	1p to 14p	Reid Bldg & Col	7p to 315p
Weyburn Eng	15p to 35p	Thorn Electric	8p to 195p
		Tate & Lyle	7p to 24p

Equities fell back as the account ended.

Gold fell 25 cents an ounce to \$138.50.

SDR-S was 1.7102 on Friday while SDR-E was 0.8803.

Commodity: Rubber's index was at 1143.2 (previous 1137.7).

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Unit Trusts: M & G

Portfolio Management Limited

Hongkong police in London over Haw Par

Senior officers of Hongkong's police commercial crimes office were due to arrive in Britain yesterday to continue their inquiries into the affairs of Haw Par. Spyder Securities and For East interests, connected with the Slater, Walker Securities group.

Hongkong officials said Senior Superintendent Peter Wassell, head of the commercial crimes division, and Chief Inspector Paul Bailey were expected to stay for about two weeks.

They were originally expected to arrive some weeks ago after arrangements were made through the Slater, Walker group before Mr. Jim Slater's resignation from them to interview the former director of Haw Par. Beneficiaries of Slater, including Mr. Slater himself.

Spyder Securities was an investment dealing company in which Slater was a director. Slater was a beneficiary of Slater, which was incorporated in Hongkong. The local police started their investigations into its affairs after accusations by the Singapore Finance Minister.

More assisted area factories

Construction of further government-built factories which, when completed, should provide jobs for an estimated 3,500 workers in the assisted areas of England were announced yesterday.

The programme, to be undertaken by the English Industrial Estates Corporation, will involve factories in the north, north-west, Yorkshire and Humberside, south-west and the East Midlands.

Iranian gas for Europe

A deal involving 13,000 million cubic metres of Iranian natural gas for the Soviet Union will be signed in Teheran at the weekend. Most of it will be exported to West Germany by a pipeline crossing Czechoslovakia.

Texaco defers price increase

Texaco has received Price Commission clearance to increase the price of its oil and petrol. Like Mobil, it has decided to defer passing on the increases to customers until the market leaders, Shell and Esso, announce how they plan to distribute the price rise.

Belgian freeze on dividends

Brussels, Nov 28.—Belgium has completed its anti-recession plan, including a temporary freeze on dividends and rents, and a partial freeze on salaries.

Mr. Leo Tindemans, the Prime Minister, said after a two-day cabinet meeting that the plan would go to parliament for approval as quickly as possible.

Share prices down again

Share prices fell further yesterday bringing the loss in market indices over the week to about 5 per cent. Prices steadied after a cut in the Bank's minimum lending rate. The FT index was 3 points down on the day at 357.3.

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PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE

Talking shop

A luxury line in Christmas food hand-outs

Food might seem to be one of the most appropriate of gifts this Christmas because of shrunken household budgets. But the traditional Christmas hamper is a far cry from the sort of food parcels one normally associates with recession conditions.

A Harrods or Fortnum and Mason version of a Christmas hamper containing such luxury items as caviar and champagne may not be an ideal present to an old age pensioner on the breadline. Nevertheless, the description of the hampers and their contents makes glamorous reading.

The Fortnum's "Luxury" list starts with one hand-cut crystal decanter containing crystal malt whisky, and ends with tin of F & M petit fours maison. The Harrods "Supreme" list starts with a half-gallon of Teacher's whisky and ends with a large box Harrods glass fruits.

It seems almost unbelievable, in these hard economic times, that people will pay £275 for an assortment of groceries, however exotic, at prices averaging between £10 and £15 a item.

Both Harrods and Fortnum's who stock hampers at this price say that they do sell in fairly large numbers.

Fortnum's, as a matter of policy, would not say how many of their top price hampers are sold. Harrods were a little more specific and said that they normally sell "some dozens" of their Supreme hampers (also priced at £275) each Christmas.

Harrods also said that deliveries of their "very substantial" trade in Christmas hampers were almost exclusively to British buyers because of the technical difficulties of exporting food and drink abroad. But Fortnum's said their customers came from all over the world.

At one time the luxury grade hampers were used as, for instance, thank-you presents from country house guests to their hosts. But today, the majority of buyers are said to be companies who give them to directors or favoured customers.

The "mass" market for luxury hampers has moved further down the price scale which with Fortnum's starts at the bottom end at £12 with a shopping basket omitting the more sophisticated goodies like caviar or Stilton and containing no drink at all.

Harrods price range starts at £10 for their "Singleton" gift box which, as its name rather coyly suggests, is intended for people living on their own or with smaller appetites. It contains for example half a bottle of sherry and half a bottle of wine (usually Marcus Rose) and at around 60p per item seems to offer fairly sound value for money.

But both stores say there are plenty of buyers in the £50 to £100 brackets. Harrods, in fact, do not use wicker baskets for "hampers" costing less than £50, the less costly versions coming, rather disappointingly, in stout cardboard boxes.

Cost-conscious buyers cannot really be a serious factor when discussing such items as caviar which costs between £3 and £4 an oz (the Fortnum's luxury hamper contains a 16oz jar) or cigars at about £20 a box. In many instances containers such as the hand-cut crystal decanter itself worth perhaps £30, which contains Fortnum's whisky or in the case of the Harrods Supreme hamper (packed in a wooden chest), items such as an electric coffee grinder, all add to the value.

But for those who take an interest, however academic, in such matters at this level, both Harrods and Fortnum's pay scrupulous attention to costs. Fortnum's say that in virtually all instances no extra charge is made for the hamper. The only additional cost (apart from carriage) is for special presentation.

Harrods say they do make a small additional charge for their wicker picnic baskets and also for the wooden boxes (the cardboard variety are free) but this is kept as low as possible. Both companies undertake that if any changes have to be made to the advertised contents the replacement will be of equal or greater value.

Not all grocery outlets have such an enviable reputation to maintain as these two famous department stores. The trade of elaborate presentation hampers being used to deliberately "blur" the price of the merchandise; or less obviously, being used to clear out old stock.

A trustworthy retailer is of prime importance in buying hampers, particularly where they are sent direct from the store to the recipient. It is done to check up on the quality and price of his gift and it may be monkeys (if at all) that any discrepancies are uncovered.

There are, nevertheless, plenty of reliable alternatives to Harrods and Fortnum's for those whose purses cannot stretch to luxury standards and who nevertheless want to send Christmas hampers. Selfridges, for example, have a range of gift boxes at prices ranging from £4.75 (average price of individual items is 43p) up to £21 (average price 95p).

As far as extra charges are concerned, Selfridges say their goods are packed by a different firm who make a charge of approximately 70p for the hamper additional to the cost of the contents.

People who live a long distance from a suitable store might care to consider a mail order food hamper. For instance, the Grattan's mail order catalogue has hampers ranging from £16.91 (35 items with an average price of 44p), including more mundane products such as cheese spread and tea bags, to £32.53.

The more practical selection of contents offered by the mail order houses have plenty of attractions to the less well-to-do. Other advantages of mail order are the built-in credit terms which offer up to 100 weeks to pay and the inclusion of carriage in the price. But higher postage and transport rates mean that delivery can add significantly to the cost.



Fortnum and Mason's £275 luxury hamper display, with Mr Derek Hobbs who manages the store's grocery department, including the hampers.

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Patricia Tisdall

Capital transfer tax: readers ask

Points to note about exemptions

Letters from readers on the subject of capital transfer tax still flow in and I am answering as many of them as space provides in this end of the month round-up.

Concerning the £1,000 exemption a reader writes: "During March 1975 I made a gift of £1,000 to my daughter, and I intended that this should relate to the short period March 26 to April 5, 1974, in order to take advantage of the carry forward benefit from a previous year."

"Could you kindly confirm that the exemption facility would still be allowed in 1975 to make two gifts each of £1,000 before April 5, 1976? It would be intended that £1,000 would relate to the year ending April 5 this year (that is, the carry forward from last year) and £1,000 for the current year ending April 5, 1976."

I am afraid that the intention of the donor is irrelevant. The rule is that the gift made in March, 1975, of £1,000 is treated as using up the exemption for the current year 1974/75. Only if another £1,000 had been paid by April 5, 1975, could advantage be taken of the unused allowance for the previous period. I think the rule is unduly harsh, bearing in mind that it only dates from the 13, 1975 (although retrospective) and gave little time for the man in

the street to take advantage of it. As the exemption for 1974/75 is deemed to have been covered by the March, 1975, payment only one £1,000 is eligible for relief in 1975/76.

An elderly reader tells me: "Two and a half years ago I gave my son nearly £8,000. If I die within seven years of the gift, leaving him nothing in my will and giving all to my wife, will estate duty (or a tapering relief) be payable on the gift to my son on my death, or on any subsequent sums I may give him, either within or outside the normally exempted categories, provided the total does not exceed £15,000?"

Where a gift has been made before March 26, 1974 (as in this case) and the donor dies within seven years, the amount of the gift that would have been liable under the old estate duty rules becomes part of his estate on death and is liable to capital transfer tax. However, if the remainder of the estate has been left to the surviving spouse no CTT will be payable. The reason is that the amount left to the surviving spouse is exempt and the son's gift of £8,000 is within the £15,000 taxable at a nil rate. The donor could make further gifts to his son during lifetime or on death to make up the total of £15,000 tax free. In addition, gifts which come within the normal exemptions

(for example the £1,000, £100 or normal expenditure rules) can be made during his lifetime without attracting CTT.

Turning to the subject of leases a reader says: "It is appreciated that in a normal settlement the senior is liable to CTT on creation of the settlement and that on reversion to the senior on determination of the beneficiary's interest no further CTT is payable."

I am, however, interested in the case of a life lease (which is a settlement for this purpose) granted prior to 1974. Can you say what would be the position for CTT on the death of the life tenant when the property would revert to the senior? I should be grateful if you could give your view of the subject matter of such a settlement."

As this reader points out, normally no CTT is payable on a reversion of settled property to the senior, but there are two exceptions. One of them relevant here is where the reversionary interest arises on the determination of a lease for life or lives.

Just to complete the picture the other case is where the interest has been acquired for a consideration in money or property worth. In both the circumstances CTT is paid on the reversion.

As to the subject matter of

the settlement, assuming the grant of the lease was entirely gratuitous the whole of the value of the property is apportioned to the lessee—the lessor's reversionary interest has no value for the purposes of CTT.

The final letter concerns interest-free loans. A reader tells me that she has lent £10,000 to her married daughter, interest-free, and would like to assist her daughter in repaying the loan by making an annual gift of £1,000 and thereby taking advantage of the exemption.

She adds: "My husband and I are accountants who I cannot do so as already I am considered to be giving my daughter £1,000 a year by taking no interest on the loan. The solicitor, who is administering my father's estate, says he considers that the accountants are wrong and that if I choose to give an annual gift of £1,000 to a regular pattern of £1,000 a year to my daughter, he thinks it would be permissible."

Section 41 of the Finance Act, 1975, which deals with free loans does not take effect until next April 6. From that date (if the terms of the section remain basically unchanged), the reader will be deemed to be making an annual gift of £1,000 during the period of the loan of the interest-free loan. If the Inland Revenue take say

15 per cent as the market value then the annual gift will be £1,500.

The section says that the gift shall be treated as made out of the transferor's income. If the gift of the interest is to be exempt under the normal expenditure rule, then the donor must be left with sufficient income to maintain her usual standard of living. In making the loan of £10,000 this will presumably have reduced the donor's income because the money will formerly have been invested elsewhere. If, as a result, the donor's standard of living declines, the exemption will not apply.

Whether or not the normal expenditure rule applies, the £1,000 exemption is certainly available, and there are two points to bear in mind here. One is that each spouse can take advantage of it. The other is that if no gifts have been made in the previous year 1974/75, then each spouse can gift £2,000 before April 5, 1976, thereby taking advantage of the unused £1,000 exemption in the previous year. So if both husband and wife are eligible for this exemption the £4,000 could be used to reduce the loan to £6,000 at April 5, 1976, thereby reducing the value of the "deemed" gifts of interest forgone for 1976/77 onwards.

Vera Di Palma

Law

Snags with leases when it comes to moving

An Englishman's home may be his castle but this does not mean he can always sell it. What is its asset value if he holds only a lease? Salability depends on the clause in the lease dealing with assignment.

Leases granted for more than three years are usually worded so as to permit an assignment with the landlord's consent. If so the landlord cannot unreasonably withhold his consent and must allow the assignee to be taken over by a new tenant who is respectable and responsible.

A lease for less than three years will usually be assigned and sub-letting, which means that the tenant may not transfer occupation to anyone else or sublet in any circumstances whatever. In this case the tenant has virtually nothing to sell and, if he decides to move, can only offer to hand back his home to his landlord.

This is invariably likely to be the position in the case of a lease on a monthly or quarterly basis.

An unexpected obstacle to selling one's flat may be the provisions of the Rent Act. While the lease itself may permit an assignment and so in law be freely transferable, the Rent Act makes it illegal for the tenant to demand a cash sum for it. Indeed the Rent Act prohibits his getting even a benefit in kind from the incoming tenant. Usually the only compensation an outgoing tenant can claim is a portion of what he has actually paid for improvements and then only at a low valuation.

Admittedly there is a loophole in the law whereby the outgoing tenant can receive a profit payment from the incoming tenant but this depends on the landlord allowing a fresh lease to be granted.

In the case of a residential lease, the Rent Acts confer on the tenant the very valuable statutory right to stay on although his term has ended. But this is only a personal right of occupation and is not transferable.

This limitation can be a grave disadvantage. If he changes his job and wishes to exchange his flat for one elsewhere he cannot do so. Were he to arrange an exchange without his landlord's consent the landlord could claim possession from the new occupant.

A statutory tenant cannot even retire to live in the country and leave his son or daughter to take over the flat. In this case any member of his family who has been living with him for six months prior to his death can inherit it.

Usually it is a blood relation who inherits or an in-law, but it is for the family to decide among themselves which of their number is to take up the lease. Should there be a dispute, a County Court judge can decide who is to have it; whoever is chosen is no concern of the landlord. Recently the Court of Appeal decided that even a common law wife

these days is entitled to inherit it. All this is not to say that a protected tenant can never turn his asset into hard cash. There is nothing in the Rent Act which makes it unlawful for a landlord to offer him a sum of money in return for giving up his tenancy and, in fact, this is frequently done. But his agreement should be the tenant change his mind and refuse to go.

In those circumstances it may be difficult for the landlord to get his money back. What is usually arranged is for the sum offered to be placed in a bank account in the joint names of their respective solicitors. When he releases the money only when he has moved out.

What is usually arranged is for the sum offered to be placed in a bank account in the joint names of their respective solicitors. When he releases the money only when he has moved out.

Ronald Irving

Unit trust performance

UNIT TRUSTS: Medium and Income funds (progress this year and the past three years). Unitholder index 1,666.8; rise from January 1, 1975: 65.9%.

Average change offered to bid, net income included, over past 12 months: 56.9%; over three years: 20.9%.

UNIT TRUSTS	A	B	Lloyds Bank Second	91.8	-22.2
Norfolk Union	129.7	129.7	Lloyds Life Accum	89.9	-30.7
Friends Provident	123.9	-13.7	S & P Ebor General	88.1	-28.5
Schroder General	123.9	-13.7	S & P General	88.0	-25.0
Hill Samuel Cap	120.1	-10.1	Capital Priority	86.1	-20.4
Hill Samuel British	114.4	-12.2	Unicorn '500'	86.1	-20.4
Guardian	108.3	-21.0	Prudential	85.8	-23.8
Tyndall Canning	106.5	-29.8	Discretionary F	84.7	-14.0
Hill Samuel Sec	106.1	-5.4	Unicorn Capital	84.3	-26.2
Lloyds Bank First	104.3	-23.0	Pelican	82.5	-13.4
Colclough	101.9	-	Trades Union	82.1	-15.5
Equity & Law	99.9	-12.7	British Life	82.0	-9.2
NPI Life Accum F	97.2	-23.4	Unicorn Trustee	80.6	-30.6
TSB General	94.5	-19.0	Unicorn General	80.6	-7.5
M & G Midland	93.9	-21.0	Mutual Blue Chip	79.5	-15.3
Equitas	92.9	-31.0	Allied Capital	78.1	-19.1
Framlington Cap F	92.7	-16.5	Stronghold Priority	77.9	-28.1
British Life Bal	92.4	-10.7	G & A	77.4	-22.2
M & G Trustee	92.4	-17.2			

Mutual Service Plus	77.1	-17.6	Minster	47.0	-41.8
Hambro Fund	76.8	-23.6	Emblem Fund	47.0	-43.1
Shenley	76.7	-	Sebag Capital	46.3	-
Norfolk	74.2	-18.0	Abbotsford Prg F	45.8	-31.8
Abbey General	73.9	-25.3	Lawson Scottish	45.7	-
Pearl Unit Trusts	73.5	-23.6	L & C Unit Trust	45.2	-16.5
Rowan Securities	73.2	-	National Consolid	43.3	-13.2
Target Income	72.1	-16.3	Abacus Clients	42.2	-34.3
Stewart British	71.9	-	National Inc Second	42.2	-33.4
Unster Bank Growth	71.6	-20.3	Garmore British	39.2	-
Tandem	70.3	-8.0	Oceanic Growth	38.5	-49.2
Allied Gro & Inc	69.9	-18.4	Glen Fund	37.9	-39.9
Carlisle F	69.4	-19.4	Family Fund	35.7	-12.3
BF Second	69.0	-11.6	Ariel	35.5	-38.7
Quadrant F	68.2	-12.4	Key Private	33.2	-32.3
LEGAL & General	67.9	-18.0	Slater Brit General	33.1	-42.3
Target Professional	67.5	-30.2	Nat Group Prg	32.5	-34.5
National West Grow	67.0	-5.5	Jacobs Sec Leads	30.7	-47.8
Target Equity	66.0	-31.4	Oceanic General	30.5	-45.6
Electrical & Ind	65.2	-17.6	National Commercial	27.3	-30.0
National Dom	64.7	-37.7	Slater Brit Cap Gwth	26.7	-46.0
Target Income	64.2	-32.1	Archway Capital F	25.3	-31.2
Nat Scot Units	63.6	-20.0	National Shamrock	16.3	-47.4
Tyndall Capital	63.5	-29.6	Portfolio Gwth	14.0	-47.4
Framlington Hg Inc	62.5	-	Commonwealth Gwth	9.7	-52.3
Slater Walker Hg Inc	61.6	-	Piccadilly Inc Grow	4.6	-24.1
			INCOME	A	B
			Hill Samuel Income	39.0	-4.8
			M & G Extnd	38.3	-4.4
			Framlington Inc	38.3	-4.4
			Schroder Income F	33.9	-0.8
			Scottish Trust	33.9	-0.8
			M & G Dividend	33.9	-0.8
			S & P Ebor Sel Inc	33.9	-0.8
			S & P Scot Income	33.9	-0.8
			High Income Prior	33.9	-0.8
			Modern Green Income	33.9	-0.8
			Scottish Div	33.9	-0.8
			Abbey Income	33.9	-0.8
			National West Inc	33.9	-0.8

Europe
Learn about European affairs by reading Europe, published every first Tuesday of the month with The Times.

W & P Scotsbairs	61.0	-26.6	Hill Samuel Income	139.0	-4.8
Wickmore	60.5	-13.5	M & G Extra Yield	122.4	-
Cellar	59.5	-13.5	Scotlending Inc	118.3	-0.4
Marlborough	58.5	-0.4	S & P Income	117.8	-0.8
Carbox F	57.9	-26.6	S & P Ebor High R	110.2	0.9
M & G General	57.3	-13.1	M & G Dividend	109.8	-0.2
Scottish Silver Growth	57.3	-13.1	M & G Ethical Inc	106.5	-8.0
Buckingham	57.1	-2.1	Scotlending Inc	106.5	-0.2
Merila	57.1	-22.4	Crecent High Div	101.5	-15.2
National Investors	55.5	-37.2	High Income Prior	100.7	-12.3
Target Commodity	51.0	-38.7	Moreen Gen Income	99.2	2.4
Brown Shipley	52.1	-1.1	High Income Yield	93.5	-
Great Winchester M	51.4	-39.9	Abbey Income	93.5	-
Scottish Growth	51.0	-39.9	National Net Inc	93.5	-13.2
Clyde General	51.0	-28.1	Lyons Bond Inc	92.8	-1.9
Henderson Inc Ass	50.5	-13.3	Scottish Income	92.2	-1.2
Profitic	49.8	-13.3			
Robertson Benson F	49.8	-13.3			
Barclays Invest	49.4	-9.9			
National Century	49.2	-20.5			
Joian Growth F	47.2	-38.8			
M & G Sec General	46.6	-13.6			

A: Change over one year to bid, B: Change over three years off bid, M: Trust valued monthly, F: Trust valued every two weeks.

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ED BY MARGARET STONE

Preparation for the way back in US

that the market got one dealer put, some hurriedly to positions by those in the City last morning convinced that the FT index followed doubts in market terms by the end of the day. The market was unsettled by the range of forecasts—some predicting a rise, others a fall. The market was not as volatile as it seemed, but the fall of about 5 points in the FT index was a sign of things to come. The market was not as volatile as it seemed, but the fall of about 5 points in the FT index was a sign of things to come.

Mr. Babcock & Wilcox has been the backbone of the steel industry since the 1930s. The company is a public company, but the ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few large institutions. The company is a public company, but the ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few large institutions. The company is a public company, but the ownership is concentrated in the hands of a few large institutions.

Competitive pressures food retailing

have been mixed results the food retailing sector the past few weeks. Sainsbury's interim results are a case in point. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

Mr. Leslie Porter, Tesco managing director, signs of gain in market share. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

fact, retailers are reluctant to give details of their gross margins, but it looks as though they were very low. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

iccadilly acquisition takes funds to £4.5m

iccadilly Unit Trust managers has bought the issued capital of Portfolio Fund, a company which has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

Barclays Unicorn's seventh annual distribution to shareholders in Unicorn Extra one Trust: 0.6016p per share, payable to shareholders on December 10. The sixth annual distribution for the year ended 1974 was 1.9849p per share, an increase of 10.3 per cent on last year.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Fairey makes vertical take-off with profit forecast—and a 'rights' issue

The Fairey aircraft, nuclear and hydraulic engineers, is forecasting at least a 37 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £4m for the year to next March 31 and announces a one-for-two rights issue. The new issue, which would raise the company's capital to £10m, is a sign of the company's confidence in its future prospects. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

TV rentals help Granada to finish the year well

Although Granada Group managed to check its first-half profits to £12.2m, against £11.1m the year before, steady progress in both its United Kingdom and overseas rental operations pushed up total sales by 17 per cent to £119.6m. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

Margins lower at Rediffusion

In spite of persistent "substantial" losses on the television broadcasting operation in Hongkong, Rediffusion Limited has narrowly improved its pre-tax profits for the six months ended September 30 from £5.5m to £5.7m.

However, sales went up from £45.1m to £58.6m, so margins were apparently shrunken from 14.4 to 11.4 per cent. At the attributable level, profits actually fell from £3m to £2.6m, but the dividend is held at 0.87p net, giving a rise from 1.29p to 1.39p gross.

The group, which is a 52 per cent-controlled subsidiary of British Electric Traction, is a television rental and electronic equipment group, and also has a stake in Thames Television. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment. The company has been struggling to maintain its market share in a highly competitive environment.

November issues lowest this year. Statistics compiled by the Midland Bank show that the amount of "new money" raised in the United Kingdom in November was £45.5m. This was the lowest monthly total recorded this year as was the number of new issues, at twenty-three. In the first eleven months of 1975, £1,885.6m has been raised, compared with £2,543.5m in the same period of last year.

£2m for Germany. Under a £2m line of credit arranged by Lloyds Bank and Commerzbank of Germany, and guaranteed by the Export Credits Guarantee Department, German firms will be able to buy £2.5m worth of plant and equipment from the United Kingdom manufacturers with associated services. The loan will be used to finance 80 per cent of the value of approved contracts.

Brewery results. With turnover going up from £32.7m to £41.2m for the six months to September 30, pre-tax profits of the Lancashire-based Burtonwood Brewery (Forshaw) group have advanced from £159,000 to £230,000. This follows up last year's rise to a record £846,000 for the full year.

Over in Nottingham, Home Breweries, a close company's trading profits for the year ended September rose up from £1.1m to £1.2m.

The full potential of Alaska and the North Sea is not expected to be realized in British Petroleum's share price until the uncertainty over the shares held by the Bank of England and Burmah is resolved, says Williams de Broe Hill Chaplin in a review of the oil major. The fall in demand for oil and the major price increases of the past two years have had a serious effect on profits. As a result the broker does not expect net income this year to exceed £170m, or 44p a share. In 1976 initial production from the Forties Field will allow this to rise to 70p a share, but the main advance will be in the next two years with the Forties at peak production and the Alaskan pipeline coming into operation.

Stock markets

Account ends with further losses

The last day of the trading account brought some "blood letting" in the equity market as the professionals united bull positions taken on cheerfully at the beginning of the week when the market seemed set fair for a further rise. The situation was not helped by a sharp rise in money market rates, making it expensive to hold stock. The cut in MLR was unexpected in view of the persistent slide in sterling, and did little to help share prices at the end of the day. New time interest in equities was thin. Gills, however, saw active trading following the cut in MLR and the news of a change of stock from the authorities.

Gloomy predictions from the National Institute for Economic and Social Research added to the market's more cautious view of the economic future. The bull accounts opened last week seemed to have been cleared out by last night, but few dealers expect to see a strong market on Monday morning.

Lanrho, the international trading and mining group, is still considering a change of domicile and is investigating the opportunities offered by three countries. But it will face considerable problems in leaving United Kingdom residency. The shares closed 3p to 116p.

Continued slump at Tomkinsons

Though the second half was a little better than the first, there was no relief for Tomkinsons (Holdings) over the 12 months to September 27 and profits before tax fell from £603,000 to £280,000. Profits in the second half of this period were down 37.5 per cent to £165,000 compared with a slump of almost two-thirds in the first half. Total turnover rose from £7.9m to £8.9m and the dividend is 6.5p (5.5p), the same net. There are waivers on 275,000 shares.

£2.4m quarterly loss by Roan Cons. Hard on the heels of the dreadful figures of Nchanga, Zambia's other copper producer, Roan Consolidated has reported a £2.4m (52.4m) loss for the three months to the end of September, compared with a profit of £28.96m in the same period last year.

Turnover amounted to £46.65m, against £78.9m, but the cost of sales amounted to £44.8m. However, after exchange gains and tax credit there was a net profit of £299,000, compared with £13.32m. As with Nchanga, the dividend has been omitted.

Plaxton's steadier. The rate at which pre-tax profits at Plaxton's (Scarborough) have fallen over the year to August 31 has slowed. The first half saw a drop of 43 per cent to £140,000 and the second a fall of only one per cent to £128,000, to leave this year's builder with a decline for the full year of 13 per cent to £768,000 on turnover of £9.3m against £7.5m.

J. DYKES (HOLDINGS). Pre-tax profit jumped from £110,000 to £201,000 in half-year to August 31, from £117,000 to £178m to £199m. Board confident year's profits will be higher.

BRITISH STEAM. Turnover for half-year to September 30, £9.9m (£9.1m), and pre-tax profit, £506,000 (£571,000). Dividend is held at 1.5p.

HARMO INDUSTRIES. Loan stock offer by Tenneco for company is to be underwritten for cash at par.

JATEL LTD. JATEL (formerly Jarebath Anglo-Indo Tea Estates) reports turnover for 1974 up from £1.7m to £2.7m and pre-tax profits from £46,000 to £117,000. No dividend (same). Chairman reports that, falling a collapse in the tea market, Jatel can reasonably look forward to another profitable result in 1975.

This assumes a 50 per cent tax rate, but it is likely to be lower. At its current level Selection Trust is both a "hold" and a "buy," says Quilter Hillman Goodman in its latest mailing newsletter. It is worth remembering, says OHG, that Charter Consolidated holds 31 per cent of the equity, and a takeover must always be considered "within the bounds of probability."

In properties Town & City will probably continue to attract speculative support at present levels, but are unlikely to move sharply upwards until there is evidence of falling interest rates and a happier market in property. Brewin Dolphin sees the shares of Bodycote International as being "at least a few pence too cheap" on current statistics and immediate prospects, while Buckmaster & Moore says Debenhams has real attractions on an 18-month view.

David Mott

was reported to have sold some of the stock bought earlier in the week. The market switched into the former "tap", Treasury 12½ per cent, 1992. When the new issue was announced in the afternoon prices dropped even further. After hours trading took another 1½ point off prices to produce falls of about one point on the 2½, "Mediums" and "undated" stocks were also lower. "Shorts" received little help from the MLR cut and were also weaker on the day. Equities opened higher again as bearish sellers picked up stock to meet selling. Bargains were traded earlier in the week. But it was soon clear that the major institutions would remain outside the market and share prices began to fall back. While the leaders remained unhappy behind the figures, the chief upsets came among the second-liners, where bull positions proved hard to unravel in a difficult market. The FT index quickly dropped to 358.3, to close following news of the MLR cut, at 357.3, a net fall of 3 points on the day. The week's fall

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Pre-tax year
Barranquillo Fin	15.54	14.77	1/4	25.33	22.73
Bibby & Baron (25p) Int	0.9	0.9	—	—	1.67
B. Industrial (10p) Int	0.51	0.51	—	—	2.71
C. & Rose (11) Int	2.1	6.1	—	—	17.79
D. Dykes (25p) Int	0.35	0.35	31/1	—	2.10
Fairey (25p) Int	1.1	1.0	—	—	2.3
G. (25p) Int	1.1	1.5	—	—	3.41
Granada (25p) Fin	1.07	1.02	1/4	2.37	2.21
Hickling Post (50p) Int	2.0	1.5	2/2	—	5.08
Manganese Bronze (25p) Fin	0.25	0.37	—	—	0.37
Plaxton (25p) Fin	2.3	3.3	12/1	0.25	0.37
Rediffusion (25p) Int	0.87	0.87	6/11	—	5.90
RCM (K4) Int	0.37	0.37	—	—	3.56
Robinsons Rentals (20p) Fin	2.1	2.02	1/4	4.22	3.85
Tomkinsons (25p) Fin	2.67	2.67	—	—	6.41
Turnbull Scott (11) Int	4.0	4.0	22/12	—	8.79
United Capital (25p) Int	0.37	0.37	6/1	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross, multiply the net dividend by 1.54. * Proposed. ** To reduce disparity.

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strongly on fresh buying to close at 197p, unchanged on the day. Shares in ICI were active again but performed quite well, helped by the press reception for the quarterly report. The general view was that the figures were lower than seemed to be over. After touching 314p, ICI dipped to 312p and then steadied to 313p, a net gain of 1p. Similarly-narrow movements left Unilever unchanged at 498p (after 406p), Becton 3p off at 330p, Bats unchanged at 320p after 318p and Courtalds 2p lower at 129p.

The market is prepared to see a sharp fall in profits next week by London & Overseas Freighters. But the share price, at 57p, is more concerned with prospects for further news of the overseas miners believed to be still hovering in the background.

The departure back home of the United States director of Chrysler left motor component issues looking even more limp. There was not a great deal of selling but Lucas Industries closed 1p off at 160p (after 161p), and other weak spots included Associated Engineers, 3p off at 32p and Woodhead at 89p after 85p.

On the insurance pitch, there was activity in CT Bowring, which is to reorganize its loan stock. At 68p, the ordinary shares ended 4p lower on the day. But the convertible stock moved higher. Equity turnover on Thursday was worth £63.3m (17,840 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Becton, National Westminster Land Securities, Marks & Spencer, Lanrho, British Home Stores new, GEC, Courtalds and EMI.

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